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Our ref: EA/CH

Headteacher: Mrs Emma Anderson
Chair of Governors: Mr Steve Chew

05 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to all parents to confirm that the national lockdown starting today will have no effect on the way that our school will operate in the coming weeks. We agree with the government that schools should be kept open: the education of young people is of crucial importance, and the benefits of school to the mental health and wellbeing of those at school are also clear to see.

It is my responsibility to ensure the safety of everyone on our school site. With the increase in COVID-19 infections, we will be reminding students about our expectations - these help us to keep all our school community as safe as possible. Parents can help by ensuring their child has a plain face covering every day (we would also recommend that they have a spare face covering as we know they can sometimes get lost or damaged).

If your child has any symptoms for COVID-19 (a persistent cough, a high temperature, loss of taste or smell) please ensure they stay at home and get a test.

It is important that we keep classrooms well ventilated, as we move in to the colder weather, please remember an optional black knitted V-neck pullover or cardigan with or without school logo – can be worn under the blazer if required for extra warmth.

We will continue to restrict visitors at school and therefore please be aware that you should only come to school if you have a pre-arranged appointment. The changes to the way we are running the school in 'bubbles' has meant that our pastoral staff, support staff and senior leaders, have even busier days with lots of extra duties and supervision. This may therefore result in a slight delay in returning telephone calls and emails compared to last academic year.

As you will be aware, we have had a small number of cases of COVID-19 within school, affecting both students and staff. Our key message to students, staff and families is the need to follow the guidance both inside and outside of school so that as few people as possible catch the virus both within school and in your local community.



You will note that the government has released updated guidance on those identified as clinically vulnerable. The updated guidance, which clinically extremely vulnerable individuals are strongly urged to follow, includes:

- socialising: stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors to exercise or attend health appointments. People can exercise with those they live with or in their support bubble
- work: if people cannot work from home, they should not attend work. They may be eligible for Statutory Sick Pay, Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit or the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme during this period of national measures. People in the same household who are not clinically extremely vulnerable can still attend work, in line with the new national restrictions
- **school: as evidence has shown there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from COVID-19, most children originally on the shielded patient list no longer need to be and therefore can still attend school.** If they are unsure, parents should contact their child's usual GP or hospital clinician to check whether they should still be considered clinically extremely vulnerable. If a GP or clinician has advised that a child should remain on the shielded patient list, they are advised not to attend school. **Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but aren't themselves, should still attend school**
- going outside: avoid all non-essential travel – they should continue to travel to hospital and GP appointments unless told otherwise by their doctor. They are strongly advised not to go to any shops or to pharmacies

Those with the following conditions fall into the clinically extremely vulnerable group:

- solid organ transplant recipients
- people with specific cancers:
 - people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
 - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
 - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - people having other targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
- people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- people with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- people with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), homozygous sickle cell)
- people on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection
- adults with Down's syndrome
- adults on dialysis or with chronic kidney disease (Stage 5)
- women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired
- other people who have also been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, based on clinical judgement and an assessment of their needs. GPs and hospital clinicians have been provided with guidance to support these decision

Those in the following group count as clinically vulnerable:

- are 70 or older

- have a lung condition that's not severe (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis)
- have heart disease (such as heart failure)
- have diabetes
- have chronic kidney disease
- have liver disease (such as hepatitis)
- have a condition affecting the brain or nerves (such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy)
- have a condition that means they have a high risk of getting infections
- are taking medicine that can affect the immune system (such as low doses of steroids)
- are very obese (a BMI of 40 or above)
- are pregnant

The full guidance can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clinically-extremely-vulnerable-receive-updated-guidance-in-line-with-new-national-restrictions>

Thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding in these challenging times.

Yours faithfully



Emma Anderson
Headteacher