



Headteacher: Mr H Kutty BA Hons

27th January 2022

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

I write as a follow up to my letter dated 19th of January where I wrote to ask our community, staff and students, to continue to wear face coverings in all areas of the school. I believed this to be the best option for our school as whilst the total number of cases of COVID-19 across the Country were falling, the rates remained stubbornly high in school aged pupils locally and we saw a spike in confirmed cases at our school last week.

I went on to write, "to be clear and transparent, it is my ambition to remove face coverings in their totality from Monday 31st of January as long as cases continue to drop"

Whilst I maintain the ambition to remove face coverings as a control measure, sadly, I must advise the current picture locally **does not allow us to do so for the 31st of January**. The reasons are this:

- There continues to be high rates of COVID-19 infections in education settings within our City. Last week saw the highest rate of infections among young people in the City since September 2021. This has continued this week. Whilst illness from COVID-19 in young people remains mild, this has caused a great deal of disruption to their education, which is something that we have always aspired to minimise.
- The rates of confirmed cases in our school are lower than the previous week but the overall trajectory is not yet on a downward curve.
- Further to this, the numbers of young people absent from school because they have either tested positive or have symptoms and therefore are awaiting results of a PCR test are higher than last week.

So it is with regret that I must ask for our community to continue to wear a face covering for another week up to and including the 4th of February, where once again, I will assess the risk of loss of learning against the disadvantages of wearing a face covering to inform you of our next steps. These decisions are not taken lightly by an education setting and ours is one based on the local data and public health information which suggests the removal of face coverings now could likely lead to an 'outbreak' which we must do everything to avoid.

A reminder that our community do not have to wear a face covering outside and will continue to receive two 5-minute breaks from face coverings in lessons.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Warmest Regards,

Harry Kutty
Headteacher