



16 September 2020

School Update – Important information and reminders

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well in these ongoing difficult times. Thank you for working with school in such a positive and supportive way to get our children back to school on 7 September 2020. I have been very pleased with the start that has been made by our students and staff, considering the significant changes to routines and procedures in and around school. Each day presents new challenges as the local and national Covid-19 situation develops further, therefore I am writing to provide, updates, reminders and further information that may be useful to you.

Journey to school

I appreciate that closing the school bus park for routine drop off and pick up has meant that parking has become more difficult close to the school site. It is important that we continue to avoid having large numbers of adults, even in cars, being on the bus park together, and children from different year groups stood together waiting for collection in cars. As noted in earlier letters, we are actively encouraging more of our children to walk or cycle to school. Thank you to all parents and carers who are actively dropping off and picking up well away from the school gates. Even if part of the journey from home is necessary in a car, many of our students are now walking a reasonable distance to school. Drop off and pick up points away from the local roads reduces congestion and avoids inconsiderate parking on residents' dropped curbs and grass verges. After a busy first few days, the movement of traffic close to the school has significantly improved as cars have increasingly parked well away from the school entrance drive. Most importantly, our children leave the site safely on a staggered basis in their year group bubbles. Your ongoing help with this is greatly appreciated.

Bus travel

Travel on DW buses has been organised carefully to ensure that there is sanitiser available for all students and seating arranged in year groups to keep students together in their bubbles. All available windows are open on buses to increase ventilation. Bus capacity has been increased following a review of the numbers travelling on the buses. It is important that students wear a face covering both to and from school if travelling on a bus unless they are exempt. Students must have an exempt pass with them in their blazer if this is the case. Please provide a face covering or mask, for your child if they are travelling on a school bus. Whilst we have not received any complaints from the public that our students are not covering faces, Derbyshire County Council has written to all schools asking that we remind parents and students of the face covering expectation.

Minimising Risks

The staff have been very pleased with the way our students have responded to being organised and taught in year group zones / bubbles. Movement around the year group zone classrooms has been orderly and when students have to move out of their zone to access a specialist teaching area they have moved sensibly around the outsides of the building to avoid any close contact with other year group students. At social times the good weather has allowed students to spread out in their bubble's indoor and outdoor spaces.

We will be monitoring student use of social spaces over the next two weeks. As the weather begins to change and fewer students move naturally outside of the buildings at social times, a decision on the need to wear face coverings inside social spaces may follow. This decision may also be influenced should there be the emergence of Covid-19 cases in school and the community. I will of course inform you of this should this be the case.

Each classroom, toilet area and social space has a sanitiser station in place to support clean hands routines. In addition, we have four full time cleaning staff on duty throughout the day cleaning touch surfaces and other identified furniture.



Covid-19 Flow Charts

Please find enclosed two flow charts that are intended to provide a simple overview of decision making at home and school if Covid-19 symptoms are present in the household and school. We hope they are helpful. As reported locally, the cases of Covid-19 infection are increasing. Therefore, following the government's guidance and getting tested quickly will ensure that treatment can follow if needed and the spread of the virus is contained.

Reporting potential cases

If your child is at home because they are suffering from Covid-19 symptoms (a fever, new continuous cough or loss of smell or taste) please confirm this with the school by either texting or telephoning school reception. If your child is tested for Covid-19 it would be very helpful if you would share the outcome with school as soon as possible.

Outbreak in School

Should there be an outbreak of Covid-19 in school we will work directly with the Health Protection Team of Public Health England and follow their guidance. It is likely that if a student outbreak is confirmed in school, then the whole bubble that included the infected child may need to isolate for 14 days. If this situation arose, schoolwork would be set for students to complete at home. It would be issued through Class Charts as was the case in our earlier lock down period, but also include some live video lessons. In planning for this eventuality it is vitally important that we have accurate contact details of parents and carers, particularly, mobile telephone numbers, email addresses and home addresses. A data form is included with this letter for return. **Please return all forms to form tutors by Wednesday 23 September 2020.**

Feedback

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who have provided feedback on the start of the new academic year and school operation. Attached you will find a Questions & Answers Bulletin which further clarifies some of the points raised in this letter and addresses some common themes gathered from parent feedback. If you would like to provide additional feedback on school routines in light of current Covid-19 restrictions please use the following link to our Back To School Feedback Form: <http://bit.ly/3IZTEA5>

The school website now has a dedicated section where you can find our Covid-19 updates and procedures along with public health information which may be helpful: www.tuptonhall.org.uk/covid19

School will be writing to you again shortly to confirm our revised communication plans. We hope these will make contact between school and home and vice versa as simple, quick and easy as possible.

Wishing all of our families the very best health and happiness,

Mr Andrew J Knowles
Headteacher