

Headteacher: Colin D Scott BEd NPQH

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Dear parent/carer,

Updated guidance re: Face coverings. Monday 2nd November 2020

Following the government announcement at the weekend, confirming a second lockdown from Thursday 5th November, I would like to update you on our position regarding the wearing of face coverings in school and that in order to support further safety measures I have concluded that:

- From Thursday 5th November, all staff and students must wear a face covering when they are in the indoor, communal areas of the school. This encompasses the corridors when moving between lessons and whilst waiting in the dining room at lunchtimes. If not eating, masks should remain worn.
- I will review this at the end of the new lockdown in December, should the government choose to reduce restrictions at that point.
- As it remains challenging to keep pupils apart during social times in their yard areas, pupils will also be required to wear face coverings there as well.
- If your child is exempt from wearing face coverings you must let the school know so that arrangements can be made to facilitate this. Please contact Mrs Wright (wright.s@risedale.org.uk) if your child is in Years 7, 8 or 9 and Mrs Benson (benson.a@risedale.org.uk) if your child is in Years 10 or 11.
- Based on current evidence and the measures that we have already put in place, such as the school-wide system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings do not need to be worn in lessons. Face coverings can have a negative impact on teaching and learning and their use in the classroom should be avoided. In classrooms we are more able to maintain safe distances with others.
- Students should sanitise their hands before they put their face covering on at the end of a lesson and after they have removed it at the beginning of a lesson.
- When not being worn, face coverings should always be stored in a small, re-sealable plastic bag either inside the student's bag or in a coat pocket.
- Students should not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it.
- All students should provide their own face covering each day and this is now to be added to our school equipment list for all students, not just those travelling to school by bus.
- Although we do provide hand-sanitising gel or washing facilities in every classroom, it is helpful for all students to also have easy access to their own small bottle of hand sanitiser at all times during the day. They should not share this with others.
- Students and staff may choose to start this practice before Thursday 5th November.
- Face coverings should continue to be worn at all times by students travelling on a bus.

As ever, my priority is the safety of your children and my staff at all times and I am truly grateful for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries or feedback for us.

Best wishes,



Colin D Scott, Headteacher

