



5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

### **Spring Letter 16 –DFE Guidance 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and visitors in schools in England. In primary schools and early years settings it is recommended that staff and visitors wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained between adults. These measures will be in place until Easter. As with all measures, we will keep this under review and update guidance as needed.

As per this latest guidance and in line with the rest of the Avonreach primaries, I must now insist that all adults that are on the school site wear a face covering. Members of staff will also wear a face covering and will be standing 2m away from other people.

Children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering and they should not be asked to wear one. Dr Susan Hopkins, the Chief Medical Adviser for NHS Test and Trace, has said that “the consensus among educationalists, public health and clinical specialists is that it is not advisable for primary school children to wear face coverings. That is why Public Health England has not recommended to the Department for Education that they should be worn by primary pupils in the classroom.

### **Travel to School**

The DFE also requested that schools alert parents to the following message:

- › *if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so*
- › *avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble*
- › *if you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey*
- › *when you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:*
  - › *wear a face covering (unless you are exempt, including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station*
  - › *social distance where possible*
  - › *wash or sanitise your hands regularly*
  - › *be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.*



### **Return to School**

We will be open for ALL pupils on Monday. Pupils will be organised into class bubbles. The new guidance released on 22<sup>nd</sup> February reiterates that the overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between pupils and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals. These are not alternative options and both measures will help.

The organisation will therefore be:

- To keep children in their class bubbles for the majority of the classroom time but also allow mixing into wider key stage groups for specialist teaching (RWInc and wraparound care).
- To regularly remind children of the need to give each other space where possible.
- To sit pupils side-by-side and not facing each other.

### **Home Learning**

Attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from the 8th March. Schools are still required to provide remote education to pupils covered by the direction where their attendance would be contrary to government guidance or legislation around Coronavirus (COVID-19). This includes, for example, where such guidance means that a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate or that clinically extremely vulnerable children are to shield. All such pupils not physically unwell should have access to remote education as soon as reasonably practicable, which may be the next school day.

As stated on our website work for pupils who are having to shield or isolate will be provided in the following way:

- A text message will be sent to parents to direct them to the home learning page on website for their child's class. This will outline where to find and how to log on to trusted educational websites such as TT Rockstars, Numbots and Education City.
- An age-appropriate paper pack of work is available from school to ensure that the pupil can engage from Day 1 (Packs for each year group have already been prepared and can be readily accessed and delivered to their home address)
- As soon as is practical for the class teacher, work will be set on Seesaw
- The pupils will be set work in line, as far as possible, with the work completed by their peers in the classroom

### **Start and End of day Procedures**

Timings for the start and end of day for each group have been outlined in the parent leaflet. Please note-siblings are to be dropped off and collected at the same time. This will be the time slot shown for your older sibling. I will send a reminder text to all classes regarding the dropping off procedures. Please do not arrive too early and congregate on the premises. Please ensure social distancing is maintained between families.



### **Wrap Around Care**

As the guidance states we are able to mix in a wider key stage group for wrap around care, I am pleased to inform you that we will be able to offer breakfast club from 8am and after school provision until 5.30pm. Breakfast Club procedures are outlined in the parent leaflet. For after school club collections please wait outside school and telephone the ASC number: 07541 336810 and a member of staff will bring your child to you.

### **Illness**

Please keep your child at home if they are unwell. If they show any COVID-19 symptoms keep them at home, contact school and follow the NHS Guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

The guidance now states an isolation period of 10 days.

### **Teams Class Meetings**

How wonderful for our pupils at home to join in with their friends at school again this week! The staff have thoroughly enjoyed offering Teams meetings. These have been well timed to smooth the transition back to school.

Year 6 had their first meeting last Friday and were joined by a surprise visitor! Mr Nocton joined in to introduce himself as Deputy Headteacher of Pershore High School and to give an overview of what to expect during the transition from NJK to Pershore. It was very enjoyable and reassuring.

### **School Vision**

*'Together, with love and joy, we will discover, develop and maximise potential.'*

Our vision at NJK remains integral to everything we do even during this difficult lockdown period. We believe it is important to commemorate this time. We are so proud of our pupils, our families and our whole community. It is so important to find love and joy and continue to ensure we can maximise our potential, whether that is through academic pursuits or by helping and caring for others, or discovering and developing new skills. Please visit our school website – children – gallery to enjoy the photographs which really encapsulate our school vision.

**Jesus taught us to live and act in the love of God, and to see whatever we have as a gift from God.**

*1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

We look forward to seeing you all next week.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J Dean'.

Mrs J Dean  
Headteacher