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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been absolutely brilliant to welcome our students back to school. Our students don't stop amazing us; they have accepted the changes and adaptations to their daily school routines and have settled back to school really smoothly.

You may have noticed in the news or through other media platforms that there is a small number of students in the UK, who due to their health needs haven't been able to return to the school environment. With the current infection and control guidance in place it is not always possible to carry out all procedures for additional health needs safely at school. It is with regret that this is also the case at Breakspeare School. We are working closely with the parents, the LA, the NHS and the 0-25 team to ascertain the best resolution for all students.

We do our utmost to provide a safe school and working environment for all our students, staff, professional colleagues and visitors including parents. You have received the COVID-19 risk assessment and information about our operation and organisation last week. The Sunflower Federation's risk assessment, safe working guidance and PPE guidance are updated regularly in line with the current guidance. We monitor and review our operational risks and our preventative and protective measures on an ongoing basis, disseminating to all parties.

At the end of the first week of our schools' opening I would like to draw your attention to updated guidance from the DfE, our schools' operations and some reminders.

The DfE sets the systems of controls that all schools must follow to manage COVID-19 risks in their settings as follows:

Prevention

All the time

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend the setting.
2. Where recommended, use of face coverings in schools.
3. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
4. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
5. Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.

Measures that suit the school specific circumstances

6. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.

Specific circumstances

7. Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Response to any infection

- 8) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- 9) Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the setting's community.
- 10) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

Please note the useful links at the end of this letter.

Operational information:

Transport Pick Up and Drop Off

Please remember to adhere to the social distancing guidance when waiting for your child to be collected.

Breakspeare – no changes

- Parents / carers 'second wave' by car e.g. please wait in the Manor House car park, (opposite the school), and once the school buses have left and the gates are opened please drive in and wait for collection of your child. Alternatively you can park in the Manor House car park and escort your child to school 9 am.

Meadow Wood – staggered drop off and pick up times to avoid congestion in front of the school

- School transport - drop off 8.45 am and pick up 3 pm (Thu 1.45 pm)
- Parents carers – drop off 9 am and pick up 3.15 (Thu 2 pm)

Visits/visitors to school

We need to continue to limit the number of visitors at school.

- At both schools we kindly ask that in the morning parents and carers wait outside for your child to be collected from you and in the afternoon they will be brought to you, again outside the school building, at all times social distancing must be followed.
- Please do not access the school building other than by an agreed, separate arrangement or an invite as advised last week.

Face coverings

1. Students

- For children under the age of 11 it is not compulsory to wear face coverings.
- People who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability face coverings are not recommended.
- If you provide your child with a face covering he/she must have skills to put it on and remove it independently. Please provide a plastic bag to store the face covering safely.
- Please note that we include in our curriculum the safe use of face coverings with those students for whom it is appropriate.

2. Staff using face coverings and IIR- face masks

- The staff is provided with IIR-type of face masks taking care of a student who has become ill and for example when supporting student's personal care, feeding, or medical needs.
- Commencing Monday 10th September the staff is advised to use face-coverings, not IIR face masks, when transitioning beyond their bubble for example students' transport area in the morning and at the end of the day, and when walking in the main corridors at Breakspeare. This is to set an extra layer of protection in line with the current COVID-19 situation in the community.

3. Visitors

- All visitors and contractors are asked to wear face coverings when transitioning in school commencing Monday 10th.

Reminders:

Main symptoms of Corona virus

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you or your child have symptoms

- Get a test for yourself or your child to check if you have or him/her has coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test
- If your child becomes ill at school you will be contacted and asked to collect your child from school as soon as possible. Meanwhile he/she will be waiting for collection supported by the staff in isolation from his/her teaching group.

Diagnosed COVID case in our schools

- You will be informed
- PH guidance will be followed

Self-isolation

- Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).
- They should get a test, and: if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period - this is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period) - their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

I would like to thank you for your co-operation in implementing the safe working practice in our schools. I know that our students feel safe when we, as adults, work closely together to provide them with secure support.

The teachers will be sending letters about the organisation, timetables and learning in your child's class very soon; they have been finalising their class based organisation this week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care. Be safe.

Merja

Further information:

UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

PPE IN SCHOOLS

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

FACE COVERINGS IN SCHOOLS

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

FACE COVERINGS

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

GUIDANCE FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH POSSIBLE OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

GETTING TESTED

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

COVID- TEST

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>



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FEDERATION