



29 November 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

You will have heard that the government has reintroduced mandatory face coverings in shops and public transport in response to the emerging Omicron variant. We have also been instructed by the Department for Education to reintroduce masks in communal areas in school from tomorrow, Tuesday 30 November 2021.

Face Coverings

From Tuesday 30 November face coverings will be mandatory in school for staff and pupils in communal areas. This means that face coverings must be worn in corridors on the way to lessons and on the way to break and lunch. They must also be worn in communal areas at break and lunchtime unless the pupil is eating.

Please can you arrange to supply your child with a plain face covering and a suitable small plastic bag for the face covering when it is not being worn. It is necessary to sanitise hands after removing the mask so we will expect the pupils to remove the masks just before they sanitise on entry to the classroom which is part of our normal routine.

The government does not currently advise wearing face coverings in lessons, however, if you wish your child to wear a face covering during lessons we are happy to allow this.

We are keen that everyone should wear a mask in communal areas but if you believe that your child/children should be exempt from wearing a face covering due to a disability or other concern, please also let us know by emailing Mrs Jarvis at sarah.jarvis@lynngroveacademy.org.uk.

To maintain the high behavioural standards around the academy, we will expect the following:

- Face coverings will be plain.
- Pupils are expected to observe the safe and appropriate application and removal of face coverings once this has been explained to them.
- If pupils are using their face coverings in a disruptive manner, this will be dealt with as disruptive behaviour and in accordance with our behaviour protocols.
- Pupils must never share face coverings.
- Tampering with another pupil's face covering would be classed as a significant health and safety breach and will be dealt with accordingly.

We will have a small supply of face masks for children to use in emergencies but request that you remind your child on a daily basis to bring a face mask from home.



Regular Lateral Flow Tests

Twice-weekly lateral flow testing remains an incredibly important way of keeping the spread of Coronavirus under control. Please do make sure your children test regularly. We have just received another consignment of home test kits in school. These tests are very quick and convenient – there is no need to do a throat swab and the result is confirmed in 15 minutes. It is very helpful if you log your results with the NHS as this helps monitor the progress of the pandemic. While we do not have access to the results we have been told that the number of tests being logged by our community has declined. As the winter gets hold and as we all start to think about Christmas please don't forget to test and do consider taking the time to log your results.

Testing on Return from Christmas Holidays

We have been instructed by the DfE to offer lateral flow tests for pupils on return from the Christmas break and we would very much like your support with this. We have been delighted by the high take up in previous in school testing rounds. In September well over 90% of our pupil community opted to join in. We know that this protects our community and your family. You will receive more details about this from us very shortly.

Ventilation in Classrooms

There is substantial evidence about the importance of good ventilation in classrooms, you will be pleased to know that we are routinely monitoring the quality of air in our classrooms using Co2 monitors. We will have windows open regularly, and sometimes during teaching. Please encourage your child to wear their school jumper under their blazers and appropriate underwear to keep warm in lessons. Wearing outside coats in school will not be permitted. If your child does not already have a school jumper, for the duration of the pandemic **any plain navy V neck jumper or cardigan** is acceptable. Logos on jumpers, other than the Lynn Grove Academy logo, must not be worn. If you wish to purchase a school jumper they are in stock at Harrisons.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support as we introduce these measures in line with government guidance at such short notice. The last 18 months of the pandemic has emphasised the importance of reacting quickly and acting as a community and we are grateful to you for supporting us to ensure we do everything we can to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on your sons' and daughters' education.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A L Mobbs'.

Ms A L Mobbs
Principal