



4 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well and safe, and that the COVID virus has not affected you over the Christmas break.

You will be aware that the Government have made recent announcements regarding the pupils return to school this week. The main change for secondary aged pupils relates to the wearing of face coverings in class, but I thought it useful to clarify further details before our pupils return.

Face Coverings – Year 7 and Year 8

All pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 are required to wear a face covering in all areas, including classrooms and communal areas, unless exempt. Pupils are not required to wear face coverings when participating in PE or when outside.

Face Coverings – Year 5 and Year 6

Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 are not required to wear face coverings in classrooms but may do so if they wish to. However, pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 should wear a face covering in communal areas unless exempt. Pupils are not required to wear face coverings when outside.

Please may we ask you to ensure your child attends school with a suitable, comfortable face covering and that they understand the importance of wearing it. The Government are due to review the wearing of face coverings in class on 26 January 2022.

Public and Dedicated School Transport

Pupils travelling on public transport or dedicated school transport should continue to wear their face covering during their journey.

Isolation Period

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests from day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and your child does not have any symptoms, they can end self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school. If day 6 and 7 LFD tests are taken early in the morning prior to the start of the school day, pupils may return to school on day 7. If it is taken later in the day on day 6 and 7, they should return on day 8 or after day 8 once they have completed two negative lateral flows or the 10 days isolation period has ended.



Fairlands Middle School

Masons Way, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3PG, Tel: (01934) 743186 Absence Line: (01934) 743908
E-Mail: office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk Website: www.fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Stefan McHale
Deputy Headteachers: Helen Heffernan and Kate Persaud
Associate Leaders: Robert Cooling and Matthew Vincent SENDCo

Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility.

If you are worried about any child please make an appointment to see either Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Robert Cooling, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Designated Safeguarding Deputies
Alternatively, you can phone NPSCC: 0808 800 5000 Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224



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Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Possible Case of COVID-19

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell), they must self-isolate and a PCR test must be booked. If your child tests positive after an LFD test, they should also self-isolate and a PCR test arranged. If the PCR test is negative they may return to school if well enough to do so.

Contact of A Positive COVID-19 case

If your child is a contact of a positive case, either inside or outside school, they are not required to self-isolate. Instead, they are required to take Lateral Flow Tests every day up to 7 days after the contact.

Lateral Flow Testing (LFD)

We ask that pupils in Year 7 and 8 continue to take LFD tests twice each week. The Department for Education recommends testing 3 – 4 days apart.

Absence Reporting

Please continue to telephone the absence line on 01934 743908, or email office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk should your child be absent stating the reason for the absence. Should your child test positive for COVID-19, please contact the school office either by email or telephone as soon as you can and remember to contact us on day 7 to confirm their return date.

Remote Education

Our main aim is to keep school open to pupils and to teach face-to-face lessons. However, we recognise that high rates of COVID-19 in our staff may make this difficult. Should this be the case, we will keep you fully informed. We have contingency plans in place to return to remote teaching using Teams should this be required.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued cooperation and wish you a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale
Headteacher



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