

2nd November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Keeping Schools Safe – update

I am writing to you with an update on the latest guidance that has been issued to schools following the introduction of the national tiered system for COVID restrictions.

As you will be aware, Angus has been placed at Tier 2 as of today. On Friday the Scottish Government issued updated guidance to schools linked to the new Tier system. You can find that guidance here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/>

As we are at Tier 2 there are no additional significant measures that require to be put in place for pupils but with a national increase in positive cases it is now more important that we all keep to the measures we have in place and don't lower our guard. Here are some of the slight changes we will be putting in place and a reminder of the mitigations we have in place that all of our pupils and staff are required to follow.

Face coverings

- At tier 2 pupils are required to wear face coverings in corridors and busy communal areas. Please remind your children to ensure they have their face coverings for school each day and that they wear them in the corridors and when requested to do so.
- All staff will be wearing face coverings when it is unavoidable to maintain 2 metre social distancing from pupils. Staff will also be wearing face coverings in corridors and busy areas in the school.
- Staff and pupils can wear a face covering whenever they are in the school building including in classrooms if they wish
- Pupils should wear face coverings on school and public transport when coming to school and returning home. There should be no eating or drinking on school transport.
- Pupils who are exempt do not require to wear face coverings. Wrist bands will be offered to these pupils this week.
- Pupils should wear face coverings when in local shops at lunchtime.
- If Angus were to move up to Tier 3 there will be a need for increased wearing of face coverings in school and, should this be required, we will let you know.
- All adult visitors to the school including parents and carers are required to wear a face covering at all times.

Ventilation

- The new guidance reinforces the need for as much ventilation as possible in classrooms while recognising the challenges as the weather turns colder. As much as possible windows in classrooms will be open so please encourage your children to dress appropriately for this and wear warm clothes.
- Should temperatures drop below what is comfortable, windows will be closed during class time and opened between classes to allow a refresh of air. Classroom doors will be open at all times.

Hygiene

- The new guidance reinforces the need for regular hand sanitising.
- We have hand sanitising stations in place for every pupil at pupils' entrances. Pupils are required to sanitise their hands each time they enter or exit the building. They are also required to sanitise each time they enter or exit a classroom or teaching area.
- Pupils will continue to wipe down their work station at the end of every period.
- Please continue to speak to your children about the importance of good personal hygiene routines during this time.
- Should a pupil begin showing any of the symptoms of COVID 19 while at school they should tell a member of staff immediately. We have clear procedures in place to deal with this as set out in the guidance.

PE

- At Tier 2 PE can begin to take place indoors. We are planning the safe reintroduction of indoor PE over the next few weeks although much PE will continue to take place outside if the weather permits.
- We are still unable to use our changing rooms so pupils should continue to wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE.

Pupils with highest clinical risk

- At Tier 2 pupils who are at highest clinical risk can continue to be able to attend school based on the whole school procedures and mitigations we have in place, unless medical advice advises otherwise.

All other systems and procedures as laid out in previous communication with parents and carers such as staggered arrival at school, staggered breaks and lunches, dedicated year group pupil zones, one way systems etc remain in place at Tier 2.

I continue to be very impressed with how our pupils have stuck with these arrangements but it is of vital importance that we don't let this slip. I know it is difficult for our young people to keep going with these measures and that at the moment some aspects of school life that are important for our young people are not possible. Hopefully the more we put in the effort now the sooner we will be out of the other side and back to some kind of normality. I would also like to thank all of our parents and carers for your continuing support of the school and for reinforcing these important measures.

Please be reassured that we will continue to update you with the latest advice or any changes.

Take care

Kas Mohamed