

# PENAIR SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on some of our arrangements going forward following the Prime ministers' announcements and the easing of some restrictions in relation to Covid 19. I would appreciate it if you take the time to go through this letter with your child so they are clear on our expectations from Monday 17 May. We have worked very hard with the children in terms of welcoming them back to school. We want to be able to continue to focus on your child's learning and progress following the disruption caused to their education by the national restrictions. By way of reminder a part of this is ensuring all children follow our rules and procedures which ensure they are ready, respectful, and safe.

I would like to congratulate the very large majority of our students on how well they are continuing to work and meet our expectations following our return to school.

## **Face Masks**

We are following the government advice and based on the current state of the pandemic and the positive progress being made, it is no longer necessary to recommend the additional precautionary face covering measures put in place from 8 March. From 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be required for pupils in classrooms or communal areas.

We will ask that students still bring a face mask to school, it may be the case if a member of staff needs to work in close proximity to a child, they request that they wear a face mask. Face masks should still be always worn by children travelling on the bus or in a taxi. Any student or staff member who wishes to wear a face mask at other times is free to do so.

We do wish to draw parents' attention to the government guidance which states 'in the event of localised outbreaks, including variants of concern, face coverings may be advised for a temporary period.'

## **Maintaining wider social distancing and PPE practices**

Throughout the course of the academic year, the school has put in place measures to limit mixing of year groups at the start and end of the day, on the school buses, during lesson changeovers and during break and lunch times. These arrangements will continue and will be reviewed following any announcements made on June 21. Students will continue to sanitise their hands upon arrival to and exit from classes. We are pleased with the way students sanitise their desks at the start of each lesson. These arrangements will continue in the summer term.

## **Toilets**

We will be reverting to our pre-covid procedures whereby students should only use the toilets at break and lunchtime and in emergencies. If your child has a particular medical condition that requires more frequent visits to the toilet, please make sure that the school is informed of this via their form tutor.

## **Mobile Phones**

As communicated last week our rule on mobile phones in school is: 'Phones are not to be seen or heard in school and can only be used during break or lunchtime on the field or on the tennis courts.' If they are seen at any other time, they will be confiscated and put in a safe place for collection at the end of the school day (ie pupils should not be 'checking messages' on the way to/from the field/tennis courts). Those students who have chosen not to follow these simple expectations will risk their phones having to be collected by parents/carers and the student will be issued with an after-school detention.

## **Onsite Truancy**

Unfortunately, a small minority of students are regularly truanting from their lessons. Staff are wasting valuable time pursuing these children around the site. This is both preventing us as a school ensuring they are able to learn and also our ability to keep them safe. If your child is truanting within the school site we will contact parents to ask them to make contact with their child and you may also be asked to collect them from school site.

As outlined at the beginning of this letter we want to ensure all children are happy, safe, and able to focus on their learning free from disruption. This can be achieved through students, staff and parents working together.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

**James Davidson**  
**Headteacher**