

5 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Guidance on what the new 'National Restrictions' mean for Kingsmead School

Yesterday we were notified by the Department for Education of changes to guidance for schools, as part of a package of new 'National Restrictions' to protect the population from rising rates of Covid-19.

Crucially, Kingsmead will **continue to remain open** for all students. Being at school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time spent out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development. It continues to be our aim that all students, in all year groups, remain in school full-time. The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from Covid-19 is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from Covid-19.

However, there will be some *changes to practises and procedures at Kingsmead School* for implementation from Monday 9 November 2020 and in accordance with these new 'National Restrictions'.

Firstly, **face coverings are now mandatory** at Kingsmead. Please check your child has a face covering with them when they leave home every morning. Face coverings must be worn by adults and students when moving within the premises, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. They are not mandatory in classrooms or outside spaces, but students are welcome to wear face coverings at all times if they so wish. They should also be worn when travelling on school transport.

Students who arrive to site without a face covering will be given one to wear. They can also collect one from reception at any point. Students refusing to wear a face covering will be sanctioned in accordance with our existing behaviour policy.

We understand that some students are exempt from wearing face coverings. Please can parents/carers of these students email the school office contact@kingsmead-school.com to confirm this, providing exemption details, and where possible encourage their child to wear a lanyard indicating this exemption. If you require such a lanyard for your child, please email the school office.

Secondly, attendance expectations for those who are **clinically extremely vulnerable** have been clarified. We are informed that most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents/carers should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice.

CARE

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

DETERMINATION

Wiveliscombe, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 2NE

 contact@kingsmead-school.com

 01984 623483

www.kingsmead-school.com

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. We will continue to arrange remote education for these students via Firefly.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.

Thirdly, guidance on **Physical Education** has also been extended and clarified. We are informed that outdoor sports should be prioritised where possible, and our large indoor spaces used where it is not, with attention to social distancing. External facilities can also be used by students if necessary, and we can work with external clubs/organisations where we believe it is safe to do so.

Finally, I would like to remind you that both your **child's school attendance arrangements** and **Kingsmead School's Tier of Restriction** can change without advance notice in the following circumstances:

- Students or staff may be asked to self-isolate at home if in close proximity to a student/staff member who has had a positive Covid-19 test result.
- Kingsmead School may move to a rota model for school attendance, combining on-site provision with remote learning, in the event of a change to local restrictions, a significant rise in Covid-19 cases within the school or critical staffing shortages.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that, **if you have any of the main symptoms of Covid-19, get a test as soon as possible.** Please stay at home until you get the test result. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your 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.

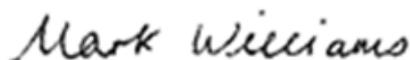
Please **follow these instructions** if you have any of the **main symptoms of coronavirus**:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. You and anyone you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
3. Anyone in your support bubble should also stay at home if you have been in close contact with them since your symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

For further information please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your continual support as we ensure that no stone is left unturned in order to keep our students and staff safe. My very best wishes go out to you and your families.

Yours faithfully



Mark Williams
Head Teacher