



19th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

In this letter:

- Changes to guidance on face coverings in schools
- Changes to the self-isolation period
- Class Charts Attendance
- First Bus Services - changes from 30th January

Changes to guidance on face coverings in school

You're likely to have seen or heard about this afternoon's announcement on Covid measures, including in secondary schools. From tomorrow face coverings will no longer be required in classrooms. Given that our case rates are steady (around 2% of the school population isolating with Covid at any one time) and lower than in many settings, we will be applying this change as recommended from tomorrow.

From next Thursday (27th) government guidance is that face coverings will also no longer be required in communal areas. It is our intention to follow this guidance, but will be maintaining the requirement to wear them until then and will confirm this next week.

As ever, students remain very welcome to wear a face covering (in or out of the classroom) and, as per general guidance, we would recommend their use in more crowded areas. There may also be exceptional circumstances where we will still require students to wear a face covering unless exempt. It is therefore just as vital that students continue to carry at least one face covering at all times. Students have been largely excellent in taking responsibility for having and wearing face coverings; as ever they have risen to the expectation in support of the school community.

Other measures remain really important and we will maintain classroom cleaning and hand hygiene regimes as at present.

Clearly, this remains a dynamic situation and, should case rates rise in a particular cohort or the school as a whole, we would liaise with the local Health Protection Team on the potential reintroduction of measures. Of course we hope that this won't be necessary.

Changes to the self-isolation period

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 now have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they

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test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, children can return to school immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to the 'Test Register' system and to NHS Test and Trace as usual.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Class Charts Attendance

This term, we have moved to Class Charts to record attendance in school. This means that parents and carers now have immediate access to attendance data for children. We would ask that parents wait before contacting school as it can take a short period of time for the Attendance Team to iron out any anomalies.

If you have a query and it has not been rectified on Class Charts by the following day, please e-mail attendance@gordanoschool.org.uk. The Attendance Team will then be able to look into this and respond in due course. Please be assured that we will continue to contact parents in a timely manner should we have any concerns about the whereabouts of a student.

First Bus Services - changes from 30th January

Although not directly a school matter, you may wish to note the following service changes for First Bus services, some of which affect bus routes in and around Portishead.

<https://travelwest.info/bus-service-changes#upcoming-service-changes-1>

With best wishes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tom Inman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tom Inman
Headteacher