



# HOE VALLEY SCHOOL

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5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## **New Guidance from the DfE regarding the 4 week National Lockdown - Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

First of all, I hope you are all well and would like to thank you for supporting your children in returning to School this academic year. We have thoroughly enjoyed having all of the students back and our attendance has remained very high since the start of term. As we enter into a second National Lockdown, I know it is going to be a challenging time for everyone, and we will aim to do our very best as a School to support you and your children throughout the coming weeks.

The Prime Minister spoke yesterday about it being a moral duty to keep schools open, and we agree it is the right priority, but the government also has a moral duty to support schools.

In short, the new guidance means it will now be mandatory for face coverings to be worn in the communal areas of all secondary schools and colleges. This means that all students and staff will be required to wear face coverings in corridors, assemblies, entering and leaving the School premises but not in classrooms.

The Prime Minister said "This extension to the rule on face coverings is a sensible response to rising Covid levels, and will act as an extra level of protection on top of the other safety measures in schools. It is vital that this requirement is respected by all parents and pupils. The vast majority are supportive, but we are aware of schools receiving objections from some parents to existing policies." The guidance is also clear that schools have until Monday 9th November to enact this new guidance and I would urge you to ensure that your child has at least one face covering with them in School. Please click [here](#) for the latest government guidance on face coverings, including how to wear one, how to maintain and dispose of them and exemptions. Your child will not be allowed into School without wearing a face covering from Monday 9th November 2020.

If your child was previously identified as clinically extremely vulnerable, please contact your GP and seek their advice as to whether they should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. Students whose doctors have confirmed they are clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend School whilst the national restrictions are in place. Teachers will be advised and work will be put on Google Classroom.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still come to School.

If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering due to health or disability reasons please contact Mrs Wright (Lead First Aider) who will be able to issue your child with an exemption card.

Click [here](#) for the latest government guidance on COVID-19 and click [here](#) to access general support and information from Parentinfo for families and young people.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Davies  
Head Teacher



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