

# Fox Wood School

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Dear Parents,

Following on from my recent messages, and Boris Johnson's latest speech today, I wanted to clarify a few things to hopefully assist everyone.

Firstly, my huge thanks to you all once again for your support and understanding at this difficult time – we fully appreciate that these are tough times for all, and we fully appreciate that not everything is as we would ideally choose. However; unless we make difficult decisions, follow the rules, show a little kindness and patience where this is needed, and all proactively support one another I fear that we could have even tougher times to face together.

Following a few questions from parents I am keen to confirm that the Government has not changed its advice with regard to shielding – so, as of this moment, residents in Warrington (unlike Blackburn with Darwen) are not being asked to shield despite us having tighter restrictions in place than some other parts of the country. Therefore, the only pupils who are still shielding at this time, are pupils who have been specifically advised to do so by their child's consultant. Should this situation change then we will notify you as quickly as possible.

I can also confirm that we recognise that many of our pupils are exempt from wearing face coverings and therefore for our KS3 and KS4 pupils we are not following the rule that is applicable to mainstream secondary schools – that adults and pupils should wear face coverings in all communal areas within school. We are, however, limiting the amount of time that all of our pupils spend in communal areas, keeping bubbles together in communal areas for breaks, lunchtimes and select carefully planned activities, and supporting them to continue to develop positive hygiene habits and routines wherever possible.

It should also be noted that we run much more on a primary school model than a secondary school model in terms of movement around the school, and volume of people moving around (which is, of course, significantly less even than the vast majority of primary schools.) For pupils in Class 8 and above should you wish your child to wear a face covering in communal areas (this would include the corridor, playground and on route to specific activities such as music but not whilst learning in classrooms) – and feel confident that this is something that your child could cope with on a daily basis – then please let the class team know by putting a note in the home/school book and we will happily trial this.

I hope that this clarifies a few points and thank you once again for your support.

Yours Faithfully,

Lucinda Duffy  
Headteacher

Headteacher: Miss Lucinda Duffy NPQH, BA.Ed QTS

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