



Date: 3rd March 2021

Dear parents / carers,

I hope that you are all well. Since our first letter went out to you last week in which we outlined guidance on measures needed to be put in place for our pupils returning to school, the Government has provided more clarity on the use of face masks in schools. With this guidance in mind, please read the following information below.

The new guidance states the following:

- *...we now also recommend that in **those settings where pupils and students in Year 7 and above are educated**, face coverings should be worn in classrooms and during activities unless social distancing can be maintained.*

As a Middle school, this puts us in the position of having pupils who are in Year 7 and above in the building. Staff teach across the year groups and so will be exposed to the different age ranges. Even our primary age pupils will move, at some point, to staff who also teach the older pupils. Therefore, ALL pupils wearing face masks in school, will serve as part of the necessary control measures to help mitigate the risk that Co-Vid 19 poses to our pupils, their families and staff in school.

The guidance also states:

- *This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.*
- *We are recommending these additional precautionary measures for a limited time during this period of high coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence in the community. As with all measures, we will keep this under review and update guidance at that point.*

The guidance also includes important information about the safe and effective use of face coverings in schools. It has been publicised that the predominant new variant of coronavirus (COVID-19) is more transmissible; however, Public Health England (PHE) advice remains that the way to control this virus is with the system of controls, even with the current new variants. At Churnet View we are further strengthening these measures to provide more reassurance and to help decrease the disruption the virus causes to education. We do not want to welcome our pupils back to school only for them to be sent home to isolate. We are very proud of the fact that measures we had in place before the Christmas holidays meant that we made it through the entire Autumn term without having to send home classes or year groups of pupils from school. The implementation of these controls creates a safer environment for staff, pupils and the community where the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection is substantially reduced. **The use of face masks is one element of the system of controls and must be implemented in line with other guidance.**

After conversations with other colleagues and members of the Talentum Learning Trust, we have taken the decision to request **all pupils and staff to wear their protective face masks in classrooms** on their return to Churnet View Middle School next week. Erring on the side of caution and in line with other places such as shops, supermarkets and

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public transport, we feel that this would seem a sensible approach to take given the information being circulated by the government in the media.

The wearing of face masks at Churnet View and the pupils' continued response to this request back in September is an aspect that we have always been proud of. The wearing of face masks in classrooms is being introduced for a limited time according to government guidelines. It will be kept under review and our guidance will be updated at that point.

As pupils have done previously, face masks will be worn by pupils on their arrival onto the school premises whether this is arrival on school transport (all pupils will have to wear a face mask on their school bus), brought to school by parents / carers or walking to school.

Pupils and staff will be expected to wear their masks whilst moving around the school building and in areas where pupils / staff may gather such as queuing up for their lunches and in corridors and in classrooms.

There is also no need to wear face masks outside the school building during break or at lunch as social distancing should reduce the risk of cross contamination and this will give pupils the opportunity to get some fresh air.

Additional Breaks

To support our pupils and staff with this, we have added a further break-time into the school day. As you can see from the break-times highlighted in bold, this provides our pupils with lots of opportunities throughout the school day to have a break from their masks and get some fresh air.

Time	Lesson/break
8:50-9:10am	Author group time
9:10-10:05	Period 1
10:05-10:20	Break 1
10:20-11:15	Period 2
11:15-11:30	Break 2
11:30-12:25	Period 3
12:25- 1.15	Lunch
1.15-1.35	PM Author Group Time
1.35-2.30	Period 4
2.30-2.45	Break 3
2.45-3.31- Year 8 2.45-3.34- Year 7 2.45-3.37- Year 6 2.45-3.40- Year 5	Period 5

I have attached again the separate letter on guidance for wearing face masks and the suitability of them:

We will have a number of face masks in stock in school, though these are for emergency use only. If a pupil arrives to school without a mask, we will contact parents and arrange for payment via ParentPay for a mask or ask that the pupil is collected. This is clearly the last thing we want to do, so please get in touch if we can help at all.

The Government Guidance states:

Any legal exemptions that apply to the wearing of face coverings in shops and on public transport also apply to this advice.

Therefore, as stated previously, pupils with medical conditions or any other genuine reason that require them not to wear a face mask are exempt from this, but you will need to email the school office and make us aware of this (cvm.office@ttl.org.uk). Those pupils medically exempt from wearing a mask, will be asked to wear a lanyard or badge that the school will provide so that the school staff will be aware.

Transparent Masks

For those who rely on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, we are investigating trying to source some transparent masks. However, the Government guidance on this states that, '*there is currently very limited evidence regarding the effectiveness or safety of transparent face coverings*'. Therefore, it will take us some time to establish whether there are any out there which are of a suitable quality.

Throughout the period of lockdown, the school has always taken a careful and cautious approach to welcoming children back into school and I feel that the continued wearing of face masks will add another layer of protection in ensuring that all pupils can return to a safe and caring learning environment.

Attendance

Please be aware that as Government guidance states: *school attendance will be mandatory for **all pupils from 8th March**. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:* • *parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)* • *the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.*

The guidance also highlights that, *A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:*

- *have symptoms or have had a positive test result*
- *live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact*
- *are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)*

The advice also states that, *pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable are to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice.* This is only when the pupil is clinically extremely vulnerable, not another member of the household.

While we understand that there may be anxieties around coming back to school, please be reassured by the control measures we have put in place to mitigate the risk. Please be aware that **we will only provide remote learning for those pupils who fall into the category listed above.** Our priority will be to provide face to face learning for those pupils in school and we will not be able to provide remote learning for anyone choosing to keep their child out of school for any other reason.

Transport – Staffordshire County Council buses to school

Please note that normal bus services and times as in place before Christmas will resume. Transport providers and not Churnet View Middle School are responsible for relevant health and safety measures when picking up, transporting and dropping off children at school. Any issues or queries in relation to measures taken must be directed towards the Staffordshire Moorlands transport provider: Tel 01785 278679.

Please see a reminder of the timetable of phased return for your information:

Timetable for a return from 8th March

Only pupils whose parents have given consent for the Lateral Flow Testing will be permitted entry into school on Monday 8th March for year 7 and Tuesday 9th March for year 8. If you are not giving consent then your child's first day back will be on Wednesday 10th March.

Any pupils who have a positive Lateral Flow Test will be isolated along with anyone they have come into contact with and we will ask you to collect them so that you can book a Co-Vid Test at a local testing centre.

***Please note** that Critical Worker provision will continue for any pupils who currently have a place until Tuesday 9th March. From the 10th March, they will be in school with other pupils following their usual timetable.

Year group	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March
7	<p>Pupils in Year 7 whose parents have consented to the Lateral Flow Test will be in school on a timetable to complete the test.</p> <p>Year 7 pupils without consent must not return to school until Wednesday 10th March</p> <p>Once in school, they will stay for the day. A timetable for the time your child will be asked to come into school, will be sent out on Monday.</p> <p>Year 7 children who have had their first Lateral Flow Test in school will return on Wednesday the 10th March. Tuesday the 9th March is for year 8 pupils who are being tested only.</p>	<p>Year 7 to remain at home and must therefore not attend school on this day so that Year 8 lateral Flow tests can be completed and access remote learning.</p>	<p>Year 7 to return to school following usual timetable. Please see staggered entry and exit times as in place before Christmas.</p>	<p>Year 7 in school following usual timetable and completing Lateral Flow tests. Some lessons may be disrupted due to testing.</p>	<p>Year 7 in school following the usual timetable.</p>
8	<p>Year 8 to access remote learning from home and must not attend school on this day.</p>	<p>Pupils in Year 8 whose parents have consented to the Lateral Flow Test will be in school on a timetable to complete the test.</p> <p>Year 8 pupils without consent must not return to school until Wednesday 10th March</p>	<p>Year 8 to return to school following usual timetable. Please see staggered entry and exit times as in place before Christmas.</p>	<p>Year 8 in school following the usual timetable.</p>	<p>Year 8 in school following usual timetable and completing Lateral Flow tests. Some lessons may be disrupted due to testing.</p>

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		Once in school, they will stay for the day. A timetable for the time your child will be asked to come into school, will be sent out on Monday.			
Year group	Monday 8th March	Tuesday 9th March	Wednesday 10th March	Thursday 11th March	Friday 12th March
5	Year 5 to access remote learning from home	Year 5 to access remote learning from home	Year 5 to return to school following usual timetable. Please see staggered entry and exit times as in place before Christmas.	Year 5 to return to school following usual timetable. Please see staggered entry and exit times as in place before Christmas.	Year 5 to return to school following usual timetable. Please see staggered entry and exit times as in place before Christmas.
6	Year 6 to access remote learning from home	Year 6 to access remote learning from home	Year 6 to return to school following usual timetable. Please see staggered entry and exit times as in place before Christmas.	Year 6 to return to school following usual timetable. Please see staggered entry and exit times as in place before Christmas.	Year 6 to return to school following usual timetable. Please see staggered entry and exit times as in place before Christmas.

The time below are the staggered drop off and pick up times for all pupils as they come in to school on the Wednesday 10th March onwards.

Drop off and Pick up times

Due to Government guidance and in order to maintain your children within year group/key stage bubbles, we will need to continue to stagger the drop off times for the different year groups to facilitate necessary social distancing. Pupils will come into school and line up on the school yard on arrival. They will then sanitise their hands before entering the school building. Please see the time below to see when your child will be able to enter and leave our school premises.

You must adhere to the following times for dropping off your child. These times cannot be changed or negotiated:

Drop off time	Year group	Year Group	End time
8.35am	Year 6	Year 8	3.31pm
8.40am	Year 7	Year 7	3.34pm

8.45am	Year 5	Year 6	3.37pm
8.50am	Year 8	Year 5	3.40pm

Please see link to the letter sent out on 26th February for other important information regarding your child's return to school. <https://cvm.ttl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2021/02/Important-information-regarding-March-re-opening37013.pdf>

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are very excited to be welcoming our pupils back to school next week.

Kind Regards



S. Fryer
Headteacher
Churnet View Middle School