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Dear parent / carer,

We recently received updated guidance regarding the easing of restrictions within schools in line with the government's roadmap out of lockdown. I just wanted to take the opportunity to update you on the operational implications of these changes. I have also been very keen throughout to retain as much 'normality' and routine as possible and so hope to continue in this vein moving forwards.

Many of the measures we have introduced will remain in place and so pupils working in 'bubbles', regular hand washing/sanitising, twice weekly testing, not sharing equipment etc will continue. Nevertheless the most significant change will be that **pupils will no longer be required to wear face coverings in school from Monday 17th May**, either in classrooms or in communal areas. That said, they may choose to continue wearing face coverings if they wish. **They are however still required to wear face coverings on public or dedicated school transport unless exempt.** Staff and visitors to the school will also be required to wear face coverings in communal areas of the school for the time being.

Ventilation is also being reemphasised as an important measure to maintain and so we will continue keeping windows open as much as possible. As the weather is getting warmer, **pupils should no longer wear coats in lessons from after half-term.**

I would also like to ask for your support in ensuring that your child is now in full and smart school uniform (please see the school website for details). I am asking our pastoral team to focus on this after half-term so that we can ensure that our high standards of presentation can be maintained as we return to a more 'normal' school life. I am aware that some pupils may have outgrown uniform and so please just let us know if there are particular issues preventing you from buying replacement items of uniform at the moment; we will of course be understanding, particularly in the current climate. Footwear and skirts are areas we have noticed which will require some attention. Please ensure that shoes are sensible, black and polishable; skirts should be knee-length and pleated.

Finally I would like to thank you for your ongoing support throughout this challenging period. The children have generally been excellent and this has only been possible with your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams