

the Scottish Governments FACTS and our versions of them as highlighted to you in my letter of 23 October 2020. The key elements are below:

- *Face Coverings: Pupils should wear properly fitting face coverings in all public places in the school unless they have an exemption card or are eating and/or drinking (**pupils should not wander about while eating and/or drinking**). In classes a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) is used to identify whether a face covering is to be worn. This is to allow staff to support pupils by moving amongst pupils in the class and is at the discretion of the teacher. We are aware that face coverings are a barrier or hinderance to communications and this is particularly acute for some. We use the RAG system to facilitate teaching without face coverings. Face coverings must be used on all school transport and where pupils use public services.*
- *Avoid crowded places where possible: School is a busy place with nearly 1,000 pupils and staff in it daily. We ask that pupils follow procedures including keeping left and by moving gradually when warning bells sound to get to classes. We are fortunate in having a lot of space compared to many schools. We ask that pupils use their common sense to avoid creating overly crowded spaces and limit their group sizes. We have opened up the theatre as a social area for S1 and this eases pressure on other areas. Pupils can also go outside unless the weather is particularly poor. **The canteen is a particularly busy area and pupils should move on if there is an extensive queue and return later rather than spend the same time in the queue.** Packed lunches and online food ordering significantly reduce the crowding in the canteen. It also helps if pupils living locally can go home for lunch. Pupils should also avoid crowded places, or creating crowding, when out with school eg at ASDA or other local shops.*
- *Clean your hands and surfaces regularly: Pupils should enter by their year group door on every entry to the school and use the designated toilets/changing rooms for handwashing. Pupils can be forgetful, and rigour is essential with this. We also ask that pupils use hand sanitiser regularly and many bring their own. Pupils will also be involved in cleaning desks and equipment in classes.*
- *Two-metre distancing: The Scottish Government does not, currently, advise that young people observe 2 m distancing in schools (and that would be impractical with the numbers we have in school). However, 2 m distancing applies to all non-pupil adults on the site. Pupils should observe 2 m distancing from staff unless this is initiated, to support them, by a member of staff wearing suitable protective wear as identified by Aberdeenshire Council. Staff will also be observing 2m distancing from each other. **Where possible senior phase pupils should observe 2 m distancing and all pupils will be dispersed around classes where space allows.***
- *Self-isolate if you have symptoms: It is absolutely fundamental that any member of the school community displaying any symptoms of Covid 19 immediately self isolates to help prevent the spread of Covid 19. The nature of the school environment is such that one person with symptoms could be in contact with a significant number of others in a single school day resulting in them having to self-isolate as a precaution. In this respect caution is best and there can be understandable confusion between Covid 19 symptoms and those of all the other bugs that commonly go around. We would rather a pupil has a day or two to establish the nature of any symptoms than they spread illness. This cautionary approach also applies if a family member is awaiting a Covid test result and we would ask that young people are kept at home until the situation is clear.*

Please ensure that you have discussed all the above with your child and stressed the need for them to follow these. As well as highlighting the risks and impacts of transmission I ask that you highlight the anxiety and stress that noncompliance creates for others. The school environment is already tense due to the situation and we do not want it heightened by inconsiderate actions. Just because one pupil is not anxious about the potential health risks does not mean they can act without considering how that impacts on others who are concerned. Please also highlight the impact that noncompliance has on the nature of the procedures we must put in place. Essentially, if pupils can manage the procedures responsibly, we are able to have fewer rules.

Where young people do not comply with the procedures in place, we have a staged approach, and we speak to them at the time or thereafter. If this does not work we may text home, so please be aware a text is not the first occurrence. If the matter is more serious one of the Guidance staff or Depute Head teachers will make contact with home. Repeated breaches will lead to exclusion warning and could lead to exclusion from school for a period of time. We always try to deal with issues at a low level and resolve them before they escalate, and we would hope that the latter stages of this process do not arise.

Thank you in anticipation of your support. In working together we can reduce transmission rates and keep our school open for our pupils and for the benefit of our wider community.

Yours sincerely.

Neil Morrison

Head Teacher

17 November 2020