



12th May 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The Prime Minister announced yesterday afternoon that from Monday 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas in all schools. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools, the government continues to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). Please do note that there are a few clinically extremely vulnerable teaching staff in school and as part of their individual risk assessments, may ask that the students continue to wear their face coverings, but only whilst in their classroom and only where social distance cannot be maintained. This does not apply to children and young people who are exempt from wearing face coverings.

The government has also confirmed that all other protective measures are to remain in place at this present time and that all students and teachers should continue to regularly test at home using the lateral flow tests. These tests should be twice a week - we recommend on a Sunday and Wednesday. This regular testing will continue to help to find asymptomatic cases where they do occur.

It is important to note that in the guidance it says: *"The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. In all cases, any educational drawbacks should be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission. The Local Action Committee structure (Bronze/Silver/Gold) should be used in such circumstances to re-introduce the use of face coverings. Immediate outbreak response (at the level of individual settings or a cluster of settings) remains for local Directors of Public Health to advise on."*

Our protective, preventative measures which are continuing can be found on our website <https://rodingvalley.net/about/covid-19-safety-measures/>

Essential measures include:

- **A requirement that students and staff who are ill MUST stay at home.**
 - Robust hand and respiratory hygiene.
 - Enhanced cleaning and ventilation arrangements
 - Active engagement with NHS Track and Trace.
 - Formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise the potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.
- **Contacts and risk of transmission to be reduced by:**
 - Twice weekly lateral flow testing.



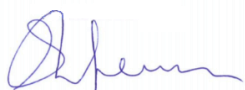
- Grouping children together – year group ‘bubbles’. In key stage 3 they are in class ‘bubbles’.
- Avoiding contact between groups – zones in operation for break and lunch.
- Staggered arrival and departure times to keep the bubbles apart - students to travel directly home.
- Arranging classrooms with forward-facing desks with seating plans.
- Staff maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible – 2 metre zone marked in the classroom around the teacher desk.
- A one-way system in place around most parts of the school site.
- Sanitiser stations are positioned at all entry points to the school building and available throughout the school.
- Staff and students must wash their hands for more than 20 seconds, more frequently.
- We will ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting and implementing the ‘**catch it, bin it, kill it**’ approach. All rooms have a covered bin.
- CEV Staff can wear visors/face coverings in their classrooms if they wish to (from 17th May)
- Designated toilets for use during lesson time with each year group having separate cubicles to use
- Reduced movement around the school site at lesson changeover – students will stay in the same classroom base for the majority of lesson changeovers and the teachers will move to them.
- Windows/ doors should be open in classrooms to allow for good ventilation.
- Teaching staff will be allocated their own equipment (whiteboard markers, pens, pencils etc) to minimise the potential transfer of infection between staff.
- Registers taken at extra-curricular - kept in bubbles as much as possible with reduced numbers.

Some students are now beginning to find the lack of movement and restrictions quite challenging. In this phase of the roadmap, others are also struggling to find the right social balance with their peers. Please do let us know if we can offer any additional support to your child and make us aware of any issues at this time. My staff are trying incredibly hard to rebuild and close the gaps that are now beginning to show for a minority of students, both mentally and socially. I truly hope that the country remains in line with the roadmap, which will allow an easing of some of these restrictions in schools later this term and restore some balance to the lives of our young people.

Students should still have a face covering with them as the [government guidance](#) also clearly states that children and young people aged 11 and over **must** still wear a face covering on public transport and when or if they enter a shop.

Many thanks for your continued support at this time.

Kind regards



Sharon Jenner
Headteacher