

4th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19 Update – Face Masks

As you will appreciate, from the implementation of new national lockdown measures on Thursday 5th November 2020, the national picture regarding the spread of Covid-19 has changed. Although the guidance regarding face masks in schools has not changed at this point, I feel it is prudent and timely to introduce the compulsory wearing of face masks in certain areas of the school. Therefore, from Monday 9th November 2020, all pupils will be expected to wear a face mask whilst in corridors, indoor canteen areas and toilet facilities. They will not be required to wear them in classrooms or outside, unless they wish to do so.

From Monday 9th November 2020, pupils will be required to carry a clean/new face mask with them at all times and we strongly recommend that they have a sealed plastic bag to store the mask in when not in use. If pupils are asked/ need to access offices, or other areas within the school, other than classrooms, the staff in those areas may also ask them to wear a face mask before entering.

For the remaining two days of this week, we would encourage pupils to wear face masks as outlined above, but it will not become compulsory until Monday 9th November 2020.

If your child is unable to wear a face mask for medical, or other identified reasons, please notify your child's Head of Learning and they will be provided with an exemption badge.

May I also take this opportunity to remind all pupils travelling to school by coach, bus or minibus, that they must continue to wear a face mask throughout the entirety of the journey. Bus companies will, from Monday, start to ban pupils who flout this requirement.

I have previously spoken about our 'road map to normality' at GTS. Unfortunately, the recent government announcement means that any significant changes will be delayed until after Christmas. We continue to build models which will allow us to reinstate the pastoral/tutoring structure within the school, as we believe this is a priority, but at the current time, we are unable to do so.

GREAT TORRINGTON SCHOOL

Headteacher: Andy Bloodworth BSc (Hons) NPQH

Calvesford Road, Great Torrington, Devon, EX38 7DJ

Tel: (01805) 623531

Email: admin@gts.devon.sch.uk

If you, or your child, is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 and/or are contacted by NHS Track and Trace, I would like to once again remind you of the importance of contacting the school immediately.


When the current national lockdown comes to an end, I will update you again regarding any further changes.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support in keeping our community safe.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth
Headteacher



GTS



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