

AS/kl
Friday 14th May 2021

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, the Department for Education has recently announced a change to their guidance on the wearing of face coverings in educational settings. In response to this, and to the views of staff, there will be changes to our expectations of staff and students in relation to the wearing of face coverings at Farlingaye from Monday 17th May onwards.

From the 17th May 2021, the following arrangements will be in place:

- Staff will be asked to wear face coverings in classrooms, except in situations where social distancing can be consistently and effectively maintained. Students will not be asked to wear face coverings in classrooms. However, if a student wishes to continue to wear face coverings in classrooms, they can do so
- Staff and students will be asked to wear face coverings in communal areas, including corridors, unless they are exempt
- Neither staff nor students will be asked to wear face coverings when outside, or while undertaking strenuous exercise. However, if they wish to wear face coverings in these circumstances, they can do so.

We will review the arrangements regarding face coverings again at half-term, and will decide if further changes are appropriate at that point.

There has been little change to the guidance relating to other measures taken to prevent the spread of infection, and so we will continue with the arrangements currently in place regarding staggering of the school day, 'bubbling' on fields and in blocks, hand washing and sanitising, and movement around the school site. These arrangements will also be reviewed at half-term.

We will also be continuing to ventilate all indoor spaces as much as possible. Over the past few months, the need for ventilation has led to relaxation of the usual rules regarding the wearing of coats and other outdoor items in classrooms. Please note that, with the advent of warmer weather, these rules will once again be enforced. This change will be implemented from 17th May onwards. From then on, students can, of course, continue to wear coats over their school uniform when outside but will be expected to remove them when in class.

Please note that, as we are not yet able to make our water stations operational, students should continue to bring water to school with them. Students can access some water sources at break and lunchtime, but these are limited, and so we would encourage them to consider the weather and the level of physical activity expected during the day when deciding how much water to bring to school.

I hope that all of the above information is clear. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at Farlingaye (asievewright@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely,

**Andy Sievewright,
Headteacher**