

# Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

Federation Headteacher: Miss Z J Linington

Potton Road, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. SG18 0EJ

Tel: 01767 314562

E-mail: [info@edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk](mailto:info@edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk)

Web: <http://www.edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk>



5 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## Second National Lockdown

You will all be aware of the decision to move everyone into a second national lockdown from Thursday 5 November.

The Department for Education (DfE) have insisted that **schools must remain open** throughout this time and that **pupils are expected to attend**. We are really pleased that we are able to remain open and will continue to provide full education for all of our pupils.

## Use of face coverings-parents/carers

We request that face coverings are worn by parents/carers when dropping off children at the gates if you exit your car. This is particularly important at the Key Stage 2 gate as space is limited. You will be helping to keep everyone safe, including school staff. In turn, this will help to keep our school running safely. Whilst the wearing of face coverings is not currently statutory in outdoor public spaces, we feel it is appropriate at this time.

## Use of face coverings-pupils

In line with the government guidelines for the national lockdown our procedure regarding masks for Key Stage 3 (years 7 and 8) remains the same. Key Stage 3 will be expected to wear a face covering in the following areas:

- *Corridors*
- *Shared spaces (school hall/sports hall if a bubble briefing takes place or when collecting their school lunch)*
- *Entering and exiting the school site to ensure protection for all*
- *School transport and public transport*

Key Stage 3 are expected to have a disposable or reusable face mask as part of their basic equipment. Key stage 3 pupils who routinely arrive at school without a suitable face mask are not meeting our expectations around safety for all of our community and will therefore receive consequences in line with our school behaviour policy.

Key Stage 2 pupils (years 5 and 6) are not expected to wear a face covering. A pupil in Key Stage 2 may select to wear a face covering in the same areas as Key Stage 3. The school will actively support families who wish to do this.



## **Visits to school**

No visitors will be allowed to the site without prior appointment or permission. Parents/carers are required to book telephone appointments with staff. Pupils may not be dropped off at the main entrance without prior arrangement. No parent/carer vehicles will be permitted on the school site or front drive without prior permission. The school will actively promote walking/cycling in line with government recommendations.

## **Entry and exit to the school**

It is essential that all pupils arrive at the designated time to ensure they enter the school with their bubble. Late arrival to school will increase the risk of a pupil mixing with another bubble. Early arrival to school increases the waiting time to enter the school. Pupils are not supervised by staff until the designated entry times below:

Key Stage 2: 8.30am-8.40am

Key Stage 3: 8.40am-8.50am

Pupils with siblings in another key stage and those who arrive on the school bus can wait in the dedicated area which is by the sheep just inside the Key Stage 2 pupil gate.

## **Maythorns Park**

The government guidelines for the national lockdown state that you must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes. There are limited exceptions to this including attending educational settings.

In general, you must not meet people socially. However, you can exercise or visit outdoor public places with:

- the people you live with
- your support bubble
- or, when on your own, 1 person from another household. Children under 5, as well as disabled people dependent on round-the-clock care are not counted towards the limit on two people meeting outside

The new guidelines prohibit pupils from meeting in groups. We would therefore ask that pupils refrain from using the local park before or after school. Breaches of the lockdown guidelines can be reported to the police and families could be subjected to fines if the new guidelines are not adhered to. The local park is not monitored or supervised by school staff. The local community police team regularly patrol this area.

The guidelines do not apply to the school setting.

## **Transport and travel**

We would urge parents to ensure that pupils travel to and from school in a safe manner adhering to the current guidelines. Siblings, immediate family members or support bubbles can travel to school together.

Children who walk, cycle or use a scooter should travel straight home by the most direct route. We would actively encourage families to walk or cycle as per the government guidelines. Travel on public transport should be planned in advance. This will allow social distancing to be practised. Young people aged 11 and over must wear a face covering on public transport. Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport. This does not apply to those who are exempt.

We are awaiting further guidance from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding any updated travel arrangements.

Thank you for your continued support of Edward Peake Middle School during these challenging times.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ZJ Linington', written in a cursive style.

Miss Z J Linington  
Federation Headteacher