



Appledore Gardens
Lindfield
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 2AQ

tel: 01444 414001
email office@oathall.org
website www.oathall.org

Headteacher: Mr E Rodriguez MA BSc (Hons)

25th September 2020

Dear Parent

I hope this message finds you and your families well.

I would like to inform you of some important changes to our operations, which will take effect from Monday 28th September.

At Oathall, we have already made significant changes to our practices as a consequence of the government's Covid guidance. Students are essentially grouped as year-group 'bubbles'. Timetable changes, one-way systems and staggered break and lunch periods (with designated year group zones) work to maintain the integrity of these 'bubbles'. Classrooms have been rearranged with students facing the front and teachers direct learning from zoned areas at the front of the room. In addition to this, we have hand sanitisers in every classroom and corridor and significantly enhanced cleaning routines.

As you know, our one-way systems recently became school-wide and further changes to timetables were implemented to reduce the amount of student movement around the school. This has had a very positive impact.

It must be said that the nature of our site does work against us to varying degrees. Some corridors are rather narrow and certain entrances/exits have the potential to create bottlenecks as people move around the school.

Despite the recent changes to our procedures, I remain concerned that the number of students and staff moving through corridors is still too great at certain points during the day and maintaining social distancing according to the guidelines is particularly challenging.

As a consequence and in the light of the fact that sadly, nationally, the pandemic is not moving in the right direction, I feel that we need to go further at Oathall to ensure that we keep all members of our school community safe.

As a result, and according to the government's guidance, from Monday 28th September, we will be asking that face coverings are worn by all students and staff in communal areas and whilst travelling to and from lessons.

The wearing of masks will not be required during lessons or **outside** during lunch and break times as other control measures will be in place then.

Face-coverings should be put in place on entering the school gates in the morning and worn as they are dismissed at the end of period 5 until they leave the site.

It is important that face-coverings are worn and managed correctly. The attached guide will give you further information on this.

Whilst we remind them regularly, I would be grateful if you could reinforce with your children how important it is that they remember to socially distance themselves from all adults at school.

We have had a number of questions from parents about certain symptoms being displayed and on whether their child needs to be taken out of school as a result. Understandably, parents have been erring on the side of caution. Public Health England has actually produced [a letter](#) for parents which aims to give further guidance on this.

Ensuring that the children are equipped and ready to learn each day is always critical but especially so at the moment. Due to the restrictions, we are unable to receive forgotten items delivered by parents. Please contact your son/daughter's Assistant Head of House in the first instance if you have particular concerns.

For those who do the school run in the morning, I would like to thank you for not using the college driveway for dropping off your children. This part of the school is now much safer for pedestrians. However, a number of local residents have contacted us about the increased congestion in Appledore Gardens with driveways being blocked by parked cars. If possible, could I ask you to drop your children off further from the school entrance so that they are able to walk for the last part of their journey? In addition, cutting engines whilst waiting for children at the end of the day would also be appreciated.

These are very challenging times for all of us and I would like to express my thanks on behalf of all the staff at the college for your continued support and understanding.

Kind regards

Edward Rodriguez

Headteacher