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Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers

In today's letter there is information about dressing for inclement weather, the need to wear masks in our secondary schools, social distancing in the playgrounds at our primary schools, support with understanding what the COVID symptoms are, understanding when a COVID test is necessary and downloading the new NHS COVID app.

Inclement weather

Sadly, it feels like the splendid weather which we have all benefitted from might be coming to an end. Bearing that in mind, although our Head teachers are currently working on a staggered start strategy to keep the children dry, they are all keen that thought is given to clothing that might stand up to the occasional downpour as experienced this morning. We are sure that you have this in hand but thought it worth mentioning.

Wearing masks in secondary schools

We have been made acutely aware that secondary schools are more likely to have issues concerning COVID as compared to primary schools where the children are younger. Sure enough, we have been made aware of one school locally needing to close and others sending year groups home as positive infections have occurred. The Skills for Life Trust prides itself on keeping pupils, staff and parents as safe as possible. As stated previously in our letters in order to prepare parents, we now feel that we are at the stage where pupils and staff need to wear masks in communal areas in order to protect all of the community. This will need to start from next Monday 28 September.

Social distancing on primary school playgrounds

Staying with the theme of safety this time with reference to our primary schools, we have written to parents regularly concerning the need for social distancing on our playgrounds. With the virus intensifying and extra measures being brought in by the Prime Minister, we are now urging our senior staff to actively engage with you at the starts and ends of each day in order that social distancing is enforced. Increasing numbers of our staff are becoming apprehensive and therefore your support and understanding will be greatly appreciated as we work together to keep the virus at bay.

Information about colds, coughs and flu

For all of us wondering on occasions whether we have the dreaded symptoms or a cold, cough or flu, this link might be of some help.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54145299>

Letter for parents about COVID-19 symptoms

Public Health England have produced a letter for schools to distribute to parents which explains when a person requires a coronavirus test and what the symptoms of coronavirus are. The intention of the letter is to help prevent children being taken out of school unnecessarily and answer some of the questions parents may have around testing.

[You can view the letter here.](#)

NHS Covid-19 App

In keeping with this theme, parents will be keen to know that the NHS Covid-19 App has been launched for over 16s which will include some Year 11, sixth form and of course, adults. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-54250736>

Next steps

We realise that there are some 'big' requests in this letter but would urge parents to support us in keeping everybody safe. We strongly believe that being aware of how our individual actions might affect others is vital at this difficult moment.

Thank you for all those parents who contact our Heads with supportive messages, it's a lonely job at the moment and they need all of the encouragement we are able to give.

Nikki King OBE and Andy Reese CEO



