

14th May 2021

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Work hard. Be kind.

Ref: COVID-19 Update

As you know, since the return of all pupils to face-to-face lessons, secondary pupils and staff across the country have been wearing face coverings in their classroom and in communal areas. This, alongside other measures, has helped to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.



England now has a much lower rate of COVID-19 infections than earlier in the year and thus, as part of the government's roadmap out of lockdown, the Prime Minister has announced the following:



Face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and FE providers. Face coverings continue to be recommended for staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).



Therefore, from Monday 17th May, we will no longer require pupils to wear a face covering whilst they are inside the school building. **If your child wishes to still wear a face covering, they are able to do so but this is now optional.**

Devon County Council has asked us to advise you that any pupil travelling on the school bus must still wear their face covering.



The other safety measures designed to limit transmission are still very important if we are to keep rates of the virus low. Therefore, I ask that you remind your child of the importance of regularly washing or sanitising their hands and of use of the 'Catch it. Kill it. Bin it.' approach with tissues to cover their mouth and nose if they sneeze. Please also support us by ensuring your child takes and reports their lateral flow tests.



As ever, if your child displays any of the main three COVID-19 symptoms, please do not send them to school and book a PCR test.



Please be aware that the reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. In all cases, any educational drawbacks will be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission.



If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact headteacher@stjamesexeter.co.uk

Take care and thank you for your continued support,



Lindsay Skinner
Headteacher

