



27 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of the summer holidays, and approach the return to school, we continue to work hard to plan and prepare for Term 1.

Events this week, and changes to government guidance, mean that we have new decisions to make, which we will need to communicate with you all. We will endeavour to do this in a timely fashion but please bear with us as there are many complexities to organise.

Face coverings

Many of you will have seen media coverage of the debate and decision around the wearing of face coverings in secondary schools over the past few days. The Government statement can be read [here](#).

As a School we are likely to recommend face coverings in certain situations on the school site – i.e. when moving between lessons and whilst indoors during break periods. We will, of course, email you all again with the exact details and arrangements for this before students are due on the school site but we wanted to make you aware of this as we appreciate this change may help some families feel more confident about the return to school.

A reminder that if your child is travelling to school by coach, bus or train the law states they **must** wear a face covering.

If you have problems with supplying your child with a face covering, or if your child has a medical reason not to wear a mask, please contact us at the school mailbox@backwellschool.net.

Uniform

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the arrangements around uniform especially on days in which students have PE.

Students are expected to be in full school uniform at all times. Our uniform, and the expectations surrounding this, can be found on our [website](#).

For the foreseeable future, due to COVID-19, **only** on days on which your child has PE they should wear their PE kit to school. This means that your child can wear any item on the PE clothing kit list, plus their school jumper, coat and either black sports leggings or black sports tracksuit bottoms (with branding discrete as possible) for warmth. They should bring their normal school uniform items (i.e. polo shirt and trousers/skirt) in their bag should they need a change of clothes following their PE lesson. This is especially important on days with inclement weather.

For your child's first PE lesson of Term 1 the PE department recommend they wear their summer PE kit (Boys- white top, black shorts and trainers, Girls - PE top, shorts/skort/leggings and trainers) as the children will then find out what sports and activities they will be undertaking for the coming weeks and thus what items/equipment they will need (for example football top and boots).

A reminder that we recommend that students have their school jumper with them at all times, they may wish to wear this in classrooms as they will be ventilated (windows and doors open).

Behaviour processes and procedures

You may remember that last year we reviewed and updated our behaviour processes and procedures. We will be providing parents and students with a reminder of our expectations of behaviour before the return to school and the small changes that have been made to reflect the current COVID-19 situation.

Preparing to return to school

I understand that the return to school may cause anxiety and nervousness for some – these are normal emotions to feel at this time. [Wellspring Counselling](#) and [Young Minds](#) have advice and guidance on supporting your child on the return to school. Over the coming days, a return to the normal routines of a school day could be beneficial to many, for example earlier bed times, to help make the transition of returning to schooling easier for all.

I appreciate that we have provided parents/carers with a lot of information over the past few weeks. Please visit our [dedicated webpage](#) which documents all of this information in one place.

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher