



PENSBY
HIGH SCHOOL

Care Respect Inspire

18 September 2020

Pensby High School

Irby Road, Heswall, Wirral.
CH61 6XN

T 0151 342 0570

F 0151 342 0571

E schooloffice@psf.wirral.sch.uk

www.pensbyhighschool.org

Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

Dear Parents and Carers

Attached to this letter there is a letter from Julia Webster, Director of Public Health Wirral. The letter outlines the need to take further protective measures as COVID-19 infection rates are continuing to rise. It in essence requires two things to happen from Monday 21 September 2020:

1: If you drop your child at school and you leave your car or walk them to school, you must cover your face please and staff on duty will do the same. Please avoid coming to the gate or congregating with other parents

2: That all staff and students use face coverings in all **indoor** communal areas of the school. For this purpose, a communal area of the school, is any area in which there are more than one student or staff member, or likely to be more than one student or staff member and teaching is **not** taking place - dining halls, zones, corridors, toilets, changing rooms etc etc. The field at lunch is free of this requirement. Students and staff do not need to wear a mask whilst they are outside.

Unless your child has a valid medical reason for not wearing a mask, we will expect them to wear a mask. We will in the first few days work to encourage students, but we require the use of face coverings as we are being directed to implement this protective measure.

Please talk to your child about how they wear a face covering, cleaning their hands each time they take one off or put a covering on and the need to have different face coverings for different activities. Face coverings used on the bus should be different to the face coverings used in school. We do have a stock of face coverings and clear plastic bags at reception to help, please direct your children there if they need additional face coverings.

I am only too aware that this is a requirement that some families have been waiting for and that others have sought to resist, please support the school in ensuring that everyone now wears a mask when required. This is not an action taken lightly, the use of masks in social settings can restrict our interactions, our communication and can impact on relationships and that is why the government are reticent to issue instructions such as this one, but clearly the rate of infection in our community is rising. Wearing masks is something we can do to help each other, help our community, and slow down transmission in the wider population. In a situation where it is easy to feel somewhat powerless in the face of this virus, this is something we can easily control. Please remember though, that the advice around hand cleaning, catch it, bin it, kill it and good hygiene is still being flagged up as the most important thing we can do as individuals to protect ourselves and each other.

Thank you again for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher

To

Wirral Council
Public Health
Marriss House
5th Floor South
Hamilton Street
Birkenhead
Wirral CH41 5ALwww.wirral.gov.uk

Date: 17 September 2020

Your Ref:
Our Ref: JW/JH/kms
Service: Public Healthe: juliewebster@wirral.gov.uk

Tel No: 0151 666 5179

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to all schools in Wirral today to ask that parents and carers take extra care as Wirral's coronavirus cases continue to rise. The number of people with coronavirus has increased dramatically since the end of August and remains high.

We are seeing more people from all age groups testing positive across all areas of Wirral. This is why we have taken the decision to write to **ask that all parents and carers in Wirral wear face coverings when collecting and dropping off their children at school.** This will apply from Monday 21st September.

I would also ask you to please take note of the following points:

- Whilst certain individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings (for example those with particular medical conditions), they will still be expected to maintain social distance. Wearing a face covering does not replace the need for social distancing.
- We are asking you as parents and carers to wear a face covering at school pick-up/drop-off points, but your children will only be expected to wear face coverings indoors in communal areas of secondary schools. The focus on adults is due to the unavoidable congestion that is happening at some school pick-up/drop-off points and the higher risk of COVID19 transmission from adult to adult, which is not replicated amongst children.
- As part of the increased measures for schools, members of school staff who oversee drop-off and collection times will also be required to wear a face covering.
- Further detail about face covering use in schools can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education>

I appreciate your support with these protective measures.
We must all do our bit and keep Wirral Well.

Kind regards,



Julie Webster
Director of Public Health