

## Covid – 19 Update:

### Dear Parents and Carers

Just a quick message to let you know that we received a visit from a HSE (Health and Safety Executive) Inspector on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November as part of a random selection of schools. The inspector went through our Covid Plan, full risk assessment documents, plans for online learning, met with staff, union reps and myself, walked the school checking all our processes and procedures, and observed lessons, break time and lesson change overs.

I am pleased to inform you that he was very impressed with all aspects of what we have done and are doing and was glowing in his praise. We passed the day with flying colours and he left us no actions at all. I would like to thank you all and your children for your support and understanding in ensuring Mullion is a safe place to attend and learn in these worrying times. It is a real team effort and we will endeavour to keep it this way.

### **Face Coverings - IMPORTANT**

Late this afternoon we received the new guidelines for educational settings as a result of the national restrictions which come into force at midnight tonight. There is specific information on the use of face coverings in schools as a result of these new restrictions. The exact information is set out below. When you read the guidance you will see that it means we are now no longer able to accept snoods as a face covering.

***“In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This was already the case for pupils in year 7 and above, and staff and visitors for those schools that were in areas where local alert level ‘high’ and ‘very high’.***

***Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs.***

***Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college.”***

***“We would expect schools to ensure any changes required in light of national restrictions are in place as soon as practically possible, and by Monday 9 November at the latest.”***

We realise that this is very short notice for all of us, but this means that your child will still need to have a suitable face covering with them in school, so that they can be worn at the specified times, unless pupils are exempt for health or disability reasons.

I have also included information below on how to wear a face covering. Additional government guidance for schools also recommends safe storage of a face covering in an individual, sealable, plastic bag between use.

Thank you and apologies again for the short notice.

Mr Randle

# How to wear a face covering

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organization recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

Take care

Mr Randle