

2 November 2020



SIR JAMES SMITH'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent /Carer

A warm welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term, I do hope your family has been able to enjoy the half term break and are feeling rested and ready for the months ahead. The last couple of months have been a real success for the school and I thank you for the part you have played in making that happen. There have been no positive cases of Covid-19 amongst pupils or staff and attendance has been significantly above the national average. Your children have conducted themselves superbly and together we are making our way through these difficult times.

However, we cannot ignore the national picture so I am writing to let you know what additional actions the school is going to take in response to the 4 week National Lockdown recently announced by the Prime Minister.

Face Masks

From Wednesday 4 November, all SJS pupils will be required to wear a face mask whilst in their bubble holding area during the morning tutorial/lesson changeover times and whilst moving around the school to their lessons. They will not be required in lessons. We will demonstrate to every pupil the correct way to remove and store them. Please provide your child with a face mask and re-sealable plastic bag (a freezer bag or similar) to safely store the mask in whilst not in use.

For two thirds of our pupils this doesn't require them to bring in anything new, they already bring these items to school anyway to use whilst travelling on the bus. For those of you who are going to need to get something for your child ready for Wednesday please make sure it is suitable for a school setting with no inappropriate language or imagery.

Remote Learning

For those pupils who are required to self-isolate by the National Guidelines relating to Covid-19 (you can find a link [here](#) to the most recent Department for Education guidance for parents) their learning will continue on-line through Microsoft Office365. Through this software (accessible by smart phone, tablet, Chromebook, PC laptop and Xbox) they will be able to find the resources and lesson information that they would otherwise be missing out on. They will 'check-in' with their teacher at the time when the lesson in school is taking place providing that all important timetabled structure to their learning and their day whilst isolated from their peers. Using Office365 the teacher will be able to offer remote guidance and feedback regarding the lesson. Whilst clearly challenging for all concerned our ambition is that any pupil unable to come to school due to the national guidelines will not fall behind their peers as a result.

After School clubs

These will not be running on the school site during the National Lockdown. All pupils will need to be off the school site from 2.40pm.

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We will of course keep you updated with any further changes as and when they become necessary and, as ever, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school through the usual channels, there will be an update to the FAQ information on our website shortly.

We at SJS believe that the measures described above together with those already in place will continue to keep our school community safe and I thank you for the ongoing support received, it is genuinely appreciated.

Yours faithfully

K Carrington

Kristien Carrington
Headteacher