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Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you all directly to send my personal thanks and best wishes. The past couple of weeks have been difficult for all our Southall family, and the kindness shown, and the well wishes sent have really lifted the staff who have worked tirelessly throughout.

I wanted to share with you that the Covid outbreak we experienced centred mainly around two classes who share a building. On a smaller scale, it did move into our Key Stage 4 bubble. This means that the health and safety processes we have in place are working. However, we needed to close the school due to operational reasons as a number of staff were required to isolate. This also meant we were able to have our own 'circuit break' where we could track the virus and ensure the safety of all. I am pleased to inform you that all who contracted Covid are doing well and we wish them a speedy recovery.

Over the half term, Telford and Wrekin announced that the area was moving to tier two, which was then superseded by the announcement of a full lockdown. This means that as a school we are required to make some small changes which are as follows:

#### **Masks / Face Coverings:**

These are now mandatory for all secondary schools and although we are a special school and our pupils are exempt, our staff must follow these guidelines. Therefore, our pupils will see staff wearing masks and face coverings whilst in communal areas and during busy periods, including the start and end of the day. **We are also encouraging all our pupils who can, to wear a mask. (Parents are asked to supply these for their child).**

We have a number of social stories on our website to support pupils in their understanding of Covid

<https://www.southallschool.com/social-stories/>

In addition to this, Telford and Wrekin announced that all parents who enter the school grounds on foot will also be required to wear a face covering.

#### **Ventilation:**

Current guidance states that ventilation is very important and, therefore, windows will remain open over the winter months. I encourage all our pupils to wear layers and we are currently working with a company who will be able to offer Southall fleeces for £15. I must stress that pupils **are not allowed** to wear hoodies or items of clothing that are heavily labelled. Pupils must wear blazers, navy jumpers or fleeces. I would like to also suggest that your child wears thermals or t-shirts and leggings under school uniform.



**Jewellery and false nails:**

We kindly ask that jewellery is limited to a single watch and one pair of small earrings. As part of our health and safety procedures, false nails and nail varnish is not permitted. This rule is also being adhered to by staff.

**Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) staff and pupils:**

Both staff and pupils who are CEV are advised not to attend school. We are currently in conversations with our known CEV pupil families, however, if you feel that your child sits in this category and we have not made contact, then please advise the school by mail or phone.

**Suspected and actual Covid cases:**

Can I kindly remind you that pupils must stay at home and adhere to the isolation period if there is:

1. A suspected Covid case in the household
2. An actual Covid case in the household
3. A member of the household is awaiting the result of a Covid test
4. The pupil has come into close contact with a person who then tests Covid positive

By following these rules, we are ensuring the safety of our pupils and staff. If you have any questions or are unsure what to do, then please contact the school where we can talk you through the government advice.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming all our pupils back on Monday and once again thank you for your patience and support.

Best wishes

Abi Martin