



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware that new guidance has been issued to schools in response to the announcement about a national lockdown. This means that as from Monday 9th November all students must wear masks when inside buildings, apart from in the classroom during lessons. This largely deals with occasions when students are gathered in corridors moving to or from lessons. In our narrow corridors space can be congested at times so we welcome this change in light of rising infection rates. We have a small number of staff who have been advised not to attend school and will, instead, be delivering virtual lessons to their classes. Rest assured that all classes will be supervised with someone present in the room to help manage these virtual lessons.

Currently students are asked to wear masks in practical settings (Technology and Art lessons) when engaging with their teachers. This means that staff feel confident moving around the room to work with students on a 1:1 basis. All other teachers are maintaining a 2-metre distance from students in the classroom. We are now also asking that students who receive additional support in lessons from a Learning Support Assistant (LSA), also wear a mask when an LSA is working in close proximity to them. Staff in the school are acutely aware of the fact that, in the course of doing their job, they may come into close contact with students for extended periods. Without adopting such measures, they are effectively putting themselves at risk.

We have in place, our own tracing process to accurately identify any students who may come into contact with infected individuals. Part of this tracing process involves looking at seating on buses. It is important therefore that students always use their designated bus.

Before half term I mentioned that we were securing an Imberhorne hoodie! In light of the cold weather and the need to safely ventilate all rooms we recognise that our classrooms are cooler than normal. Currently students are wearing a mixture of clothing, in this situation I always worry about unhelpful comparisons regarding expensive garments. We believe uniform brings students together, unifying and equalising their appearance. I am pleased to say the hoodie is now available to order here <https://uniform.imberhorne.co.uk/>. From Monday 16th November we will be much stricter about what students can wear in the classroom. If they feel cold (not all do) they must wear a top with the school logo on. This means that they can wear our new hoodie, or other such school top. We anticipate the hoodie being worn over jumpers, providing an additional layer of warmth. Clearly, we understand coats will still be worn to school but cannot be worn in lessons. We have ensured the price of the hoodie is at cost price and are very happy to support anyone who may have difficulty meeting this cost. On days when students have PE lessons we expect them to still wear our full PE kit. To combat the cold, they can wear navy or black tracksuit trousers to school over their shorts along with protective leggings under their shorts.

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On Thursday 12th November school finishes slightly early (2.30pm) to accommodate our Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening. We are offering face to face video discussions with our Sixth Form subject leaders. In order to set up the rooms with the required equipment we need time between the end of school and the start of our event. On our shortened days students still have five, one-hour lessons so are not disadvantaged in any way.

I am afraid that the national lockdown also means we are even more careful about receiving visitors to the school, we can only receive visitors by appointment. We are of course very happy to speak over the phone and continue to encourage your communication with us. After school clubs will continue, we see this as an important part of school life. With reduced opportunities outside of school what we are able to provide has even more added value. I remain grateful to my colleagues who just want school to look and feel as normal as possible, there is much change taking place around us, on occasions this can all feel a little bewildering. It is difficult to think of a time when we have faced so many new challenges, many of these on a daily basis.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher