



27th August 2020

Dear parent

I hope you have enjoyed the summer and managed to spend time with your family. We are now making the final preparations for re-opening in the week beginning the 7th September and are looking forward to welcoming pupils back to school. I very much support the view that we need to get our children and young people back into the routines of education and that the benefits far outweigh the relatively small risks of opening schools to children.

You may be aware that the government has issued guidance to parents about sending children to school, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Please read the guidance. It provides a lot of information, including the latest scientific guidance. Our schools will be happy to give any further guidance you might need if you still have further questions.

Face coverings

You may also be aware the government has just changed its guidance on wearing face coverings in **secondary schools**. **Given that restrictions are still in place in Kirklees, our secondary pupils must wear face coverings when walking around school.** Pupils may take them off when they are in their classrooms or when eating lunch. Primary school pupils **may** be asked to wear face coverings in certain circumstances but the scientific guidance is different for younger children and the risks are not the same. Your child's headteacher will share any specific arrangements with you in the next couple of weeks. We are confident all our other safety practices will keep risks to a minimum.

We are all getting used to wearing face coverings in shops or public transport, so we are assuming secondary pupils have their own face coverings. Please remember to wash these frequently and follow the more detailed guidance about hygiene described here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>



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We will have a small supply of face coverings available for pupils who have forgotten, soiled or damaged their own but we will not be able to provide a sufficient number for every pupil, every day.

A small number of pupils may be exempt from wearing face coverings. If this applies to your son or daughter, would you email the school as soon as possible, providing reasons? Headteachers will provide further guidance about how exemptions will be applied in the very near future.

I do hope pupils are looking forward to returning in September. I think many of us have a new appreciation for schools and just how important they are for children's mental health and well-being. If you do have concerns, however, please get in touch with your child's school. They will be happy to help you and provide any further reassurance you may need.

I look forward to seeing many of you in September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John McNally". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John McNally
CEO