

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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21 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Change in Government guidance for Lancashire

As you will know, from Tuesday 22 September, there will be further restrictions placed on our communities. We wrote to you at the start of term to explain that the wearing of face coverings in communal areas was optional in this school but that it would remain under review. We asked you to purchase a face mask so you could be ready for any changes in government guidelines.

In line with the new restrictions, pupils and staff will be required to wear face coverings in communal areas **from tomorrow**, Tuesday 22 September. 'Communal areas' means anywhere outside the classroom, including corridors and outdoor spaces at break and lunchtime. Face coverings can obviously be removed when children are eating.

Face coverings should be plain blue / black. Please ensure that your child understands how to safely wear and remove a face covering.

Pupils must sanitise their hands before putting their mask on. To remove the mask, they should sanitise their hands first. They should then unhook it by the ear loops and place the mask in a plastic bag. They should then re-sanitise their hands.

The full details can be found in the link below:

<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>

There is sanitiser available in all classrooms, but your child might prefer to have their own personal supply to speed up this process.

Face coverings must be removed in lessons. The [government guidance](#) states that: *It is not necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower and they may inhibit teaching and learning.*

We understand that there will be a few members of our community who are exempt from wearing face coverings. Guidance on who is exempt can be found in the first link above. Please ensure that you contact your child's Progress Leader via Parentline asap if this applies to them.

I realise this is short notice, but, as you will appreciate, we're responding to rapidly changing guidance. Thank you for your support in continuing to keep our school community as safe as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C Walmsley  
Acting Principal

*Believe.....*