Johnstone High School 

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11th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**UPDATE ON COVID-19 MEASURES IN SCHOOL**

As you know, the Scottish Government has now introduced a system of new protection levels to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and Renfrewshire has been placed at Level 3.

This means some extra guidance for schools to help keep everyone safe, and we’ve listed what that means for you below:

* We can now resume indoor PE for pupils however we will still need to use our outdoor facilities in order to space out classes and keep pupils socially distanced, wherever possible. Boys will get changed in the small gym (spaced out and ventilated) and girls will use all four changing rooms. Pupils should continue to bring kit that is appropriate for outdoor PE:
  + Additional/appropriate clothing should be worn – extra layers, footwear (other than the shoes they wear to school)
  + A change of socks may be appropriate
  + Bring a plastic bag to put wet clothing/footwear in
  + Staff will be making decision on a lesson by lesson basis regarding adverse weather e.g. stopping the lesson early in extremely wet conditions to come in and get warm and dry. Hairdryers have been purchased to help with this.
  + Even if your child is injured, they should bring PE kit and they will be given an alternative role within the lesson e.g. referee, timekeeper, coach, equipment manager etc. This ensures all pupils will have dry uniform to change into.
* Currently, school staff keep a two-metre distance from pupils as normal practice, but staff now wear a face covering wherever this is not possible. We are conscious of the impact of this on our pupils and where pupils require additional support, we will identify a different approach which balances safety and quality of communication.
* School staff are wearing face coverings in all communal areas of the school and we have already explained to our pupils why this is important in a lesson delivered during period one, Monday 2nd November.
* Visitors, parents and carers should wear a face covering when entering the school or playground and at pick-up and drop-off. We also ask you wear a face covering at any busy pick-up or drop-off points outside school.
* The national advice is to ensure good airflow within schools. This is important to minimise spread of the virus. As we approach winter and colder weather, we will make sure classrooms are safe, warm and comfortable. However, we ask parents and carers please provide warm clothing, such as a jumper or fleece, in colder weather. Please contact the school directly if we can be of assistance with this.

All of these measures are in addition to the existing safety measures in our school, which follow the national guidance and are already of a very high standard. These include:

* thorough cleaning within the school;
* very good hand sanitising regimes;
* physical distancing between staff and between staff and pupils wherever possible;
* separate doors for each year group;
* good hygiene when catching coughs and sneezes;
* staggering school start/finish times, breaks and lunchtimes;
* maintaining class groupings in S1 and S2;
* and good ventilation of the building.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that all pupils should wear a face covering when travelling to and from school by school bus, unless they are exempt. All pupils must wear a face covering in corridors and social spaces. And as you know, all pupils in S4-6 should also now wear a face covering in class at all times.

More information on what we are doing to keep schools safe is available on the council website, as is a guide to what to do if you suspect or have coronavirus.

We know the ongoing situation is very challenging for everyone, but we are doing all we can to keep our school safe and maintain a welcoming and nurturing learning environment for pupils.

The response from our pupils has been fantastic and we cannot thank you and them enough for your continued support.

Please stay safe at home and follow the latest public health advice. If there is anything else you wish to discuss with us, please contact the school directly.

With very best wishes to you and your family,



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher