



Dear Parents/Carers and Students

WGS Newsletter (55) Covid Update (02/07/2021)

Recently there has been a small increase in Covid cases in students at schools across Witney which we hope will not continue. A number of these cases can be traced back to social gatherings outside of school. Government guidance on gatherings remains as below:

Meeting family and friends outdoors

You should continue to minimise the number of people you meet within a short period of time to limit the risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19). Most restrictions on meeting people outdoors have been lifted, but gatherings must not exceed 30 people unless covered by a legal exemption, such as:

- for the purposes of work or volunteering
- to provide care or assistance for disabled or vulnerable people

Meeting friends and family indoors (rule of 6)

It is safer to meet people outdoors. This is because COVID-19 spreads much more easily indoors. However, you can meet up indoors with friends and family you do not live with, either:

- in a group of up to 6 from any number of households (children of all ages count towards the limit of 6)
- in a group of any size from up to two households (each household can include an existing support bubble, if eligible)

If you are meeting friends and family, you can make a personal choice on whether to keep your distance from them, but you should still be cautious. You should read the guidance on [meeting friends and family](#).

We are taking every step possible in school to protect students, staff and their families and hope that we have your support in this.

Villages and Face Coverings

From Monday 5th July we will no longer be operating in a Village Model. Our decision has been led by the reduction of students on site for the last few weeks leading to the end of term. Generally, there will only be three year groups in school so the risk in students moving around school will dramatically reduce. There will be sanitiser and wipes in use alongside increased ventilation and continuing an extended cleaning regime. To help in making students feel secure we will be reintroducing the use of face coverings in communal areas and full support from home is required to support this. Therefore, all students need to have a good supply of masks and are expected to follow this rule without argument, unless they are exempt.

Some students can be exempt from wearing a mask. The guidance says that exemption is for those who:

- cannot wear a face covering because of a physical impairment or disability, illness or mental health reasons
- speak to or provide help to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

Yours sincerely

Mr R Shadbolt
Headteacher