



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

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Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are well.

As we reach the end of the first term of this academic year, I wanted to thank you for your support this term. It has been challenging in many ways, but the way that our school community has adapted to the changes has been fantastic. Students have reacted well to the adjustment to their daily routines, and it has been particularly pleasing to see them working so well in lessons. Staff have worked brilliantly to ensure a smooth transition back into school, Fitzharrys students have responded superbly to their time, effort, and expertise.

Ahead of term 2, there are some key reminders and notices that I wanted to draw your attention to.

### **COVID-19**

As we move into winter, it is vital that all students follow the COVID-19 precautions in school. Students need to maintain their use of hand sanitiser, stay in their year group bubbles, and give others in our community an appropriate amount of social space. Please remind your child of the importance of these actions. We will continue to reiterate these messages in school.

I have attached a Public Health England COVID-19 information sheet for parents and carers. This contains some excellent advice about what to do in different situations. Please do keep hold of this for future reference.

### **Masks/Face coverings**

As things stand the guidance from government remains the same with regard to masks. However, if the NHS alert level in our area moves to 'High', the guidance states that all staff and students (unless they have medical exemption) should wear masks in communal areas and corridors. In this scenario the only point that staff and students should not wear masks will be in lessons.

We will contact you to let you know when the alert level changes to 'High'. In readiness, please ensure that your child has sufficient masks for school and that you have talked with them about how to handle masks in a safe way (<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> ). This is something we will emphasise in school at the time, but your support in preparing for this would be appreciated.

## Uniform and keeping warm

In term 2 we will continue to encourage students to be outside at breaks and lunchtime to help restrict the spread of any infection. We will continue to keep classrooms well ventilated, with windows open. This means that students should be wearing their full uniform of shirt, jumper, and blazer, with a winter coat over the top. Hoodies and sports tops are not part of the uniform and should not be worn.

## Travelling to school safely

Following several incidents in Abingdon, we have sent notices and reminders to you about students travelling to and from school safely. Please be assured that we have contacted the police at every point, and they will update us if there are any developments. In the meantime, please remind your child about being safe and vigilant on their journeys.

## E-Praise

The move to using E-Praise for the setting of homework has been very successful. Students have responded well to the new system, which is more accessible and user friendly. There has also been a good uptake from parents. If you have not registered to use the system as a parent, please can you do so. Not only does it provide detailed updates of your child's homework, but it will also be the system we use for booking and delivering parents evenings this year. If you need more guidance on how to access this, then please let us know.

Alongside this letter, I have attached 2 notices that have come into school. One is about a community larder that has been set up in Abingdon, the other relates to Mental Health Awareness workshops. Please do read through these.

I hope your child has a safe and relaxing half term. We look forward to seeing them back in school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke  
Head of School



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