

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear parents/carers,

**Re: COVID update and reinstatement of face coverings in school**

Over the weekend the Local Authority wrote to schools across the area following the widely publicised issues with possible false-negative PCR tests, including those taken at the Newbury Showground site. Nationally, assurances have been given that the issue affecting these has now been identified and been resolved.

At John O'Gaunt, we took early action on Friday morning and contacted families who we felt might have been directly affected, but by way of further guidance, West Berkshire Council has issued the advice contained in the table below.

<b>Situation</b>	<b>Action advised</b>
PCR taken during 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> October, due to symptoms of Covid-19 or because of a positive LFD test	Encourage to take another PCR test as soon as possible If the individual is still within 10 days of the symptoms starting, or a positive LFD, then to advise that they self-isolate while waiting for the PCR result
PCR taken for any other reason during 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> October. For example someone who is a close contact of a confirmed case	Encourage to take a new PCR test as soon as possible Self-isolation is not required while waiting for the test result, unless they have symptoms themselves.
Household or close contact of someone who has had Covid-19 symptoms or a positive LFD test during 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> October	To consider getting a PCR test as a precaution Self-isolation is not required while waiting for the result, unless they have symptoms themselves.
Developed symptoms consistent with Covid-19, or a positive LFD since 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Book a PCR test as soon as possible To self-isolate while waiting for a result If this result is negative, they can stop self-isolating

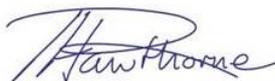
Furthermore, due to an increase in the number of cases in schools, the advice we have been given also included temporarily returning to the position of wearing face coverings in indoor communal areas and classrooms. We have been informed that this advice will be reviewed at half term.

JOG will therefore require all staff and students (except those exempt) to wear a face covering at school from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 until further notice. Please ensure that your child/ren have a suitable mask or face covering with them. For those who travel by school transport, we are awaiting further updates, but our advice is that face coverings should be worn whilst travelling on school transport.

Whilst we do of course support the advised measures and guidance around retesting, we would like to assure you that the school remains safe to attend. Like most schools nationally, JOG has experienced a small number of positive cases since returning in September, but we continue to use the DfE advised precautionary measures to reduce the chances of transmission, such as regular cleaning and good ventilation. We also continue to monitor the situation carefully and are in regular contact with Public Health England and the Local Authority. We would also like to reiterate the importance of continuing with twice-weekly LFD testing at home, which helps to identify asymptomatic cases, and in continuing to communicate with the school when needed.

Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hawthorne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'H'.

**Mr R Hawthorne**  
**Head of School**