

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a big thank you to all our parents and carers for the tremendous support given to the schools and settings over this last term. We have seen a fall in the number of cases in schools, though we are now seeing increasing rates, and some variants of concern in several areas of the North West, including Sefton.

For more information how to access testing if you have COVID symptoms and surge testing for families (without symptoms) who live, work or study in the Formby area, please click here <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/covid-19-in-sefton/covid-19-testing/>

As you are aware from 17<sup>th</sup> May we are moving to the next stage of the government's road map which means that we will be able to undertake more activities socially. While this is great news for us all within our schools and settings we want to ensure that all our pupils and staff are kept safe. Secondary school pupils from Monday do not have to wear face masks in school however all adults in all our schools – primary, secondary and special have been advised to continue to wear masks in the latest government guidance.

The continued use of face-coverings by adults in school settings is supported by Sefton's Public Health team, and they will encourage schools to adopt a policy of pupil mask wearing, in senior schools, when there is an outbreak in an area. If this is required schools will be asking pupils to wear masks within school and when travelling to and from school. Please do support the schools when this is the case, as evidence suggests that face coverings continue to be an effective way of reducing transmission.

We appreciate how supportive you have been throughout the pandemic in helping your children with remote learning, following the guidance with HANDS, SPACE, FACE. By doing this you have helped to keep the numbers and spread of coronavirus in schools down to a minimum. One way that has helped greatly has been the following of the access into school buildings and the wearing of facemasks on school premises. Therefore, we would ask that you continue to wear facemasks on school premises in this way we can continue to protect yourselves, staff and children.

As we approach half term we would ask that you continue to follow the government guidance and remember HANDS, SPACE, FACE.

Stay safe and enjoy the half term with your families.

Yours Sincerely,

Margaret Jones  
Director of Public Health

Tricia Davies  
Interim Head of Education