



The Oak-Tree Group of Schools

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Group Managing Principal

Mr Matthew Hagger B.A. (Hons), M.Ed., PGCE

29 November 2021

Dear Parents

Re: Face Coverings in School

The Prime Minister announced new temporary measures on Saturday following the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in the UK. These include the reintroduction of the requirement to wear face coverings in certain locations in order to slow down the spread of this variant.

The Department for Education has asked schools to ensure that, from tomorrow, face coverings are worn in communal areas by staff, visitors and pupils in Year 7 and above.

Staff

Staff will wear face coverings when in communal areas and moving around inside the buildings. In addition, we have recommended that staff wear face coverings when teaching inside where social distancing is not possible. This will be optional and may depend on the size and layout of the room as well as the age of the children.

Primary age pupils from Kindergarten to Year 6

Primary children will not need to wear face coverings.

Secondary age pupils from Year 7 to Year 11

Secondary pupils will need to wear face coverings when moving through the buildings and in communal areas (eg locker rooms and dining halls). The wearing of face coverings in lessons will be optional for the time being, although they may not be appropriate when taking part in PE lessons. Pupils should bring at least one clean disposable or reusable face covering to school each day.

Parents/Visitors

All parents and visitors must wear face coverings when inside any of the buildings. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings outside for the time being, but please do remember to maintain your distance when waiting to pick up. Face coverings must be worn for the forthcoming Christmas events that are still scheduled to go ahead.

Whilst writing, I would like to thank you for helping your children to test at least twice each week. Please continue to do so as, in our experience, many children are either asymptomatic or have milder cold-like symptoms rather than a new continuous cough, fever or loss of taste/smell. This means that they can unknowingly transmit the virus around the school if they are not testing. As I wrote in October, lateral flow tests are freely available in the local area. All of our Covid-guidelines, letters and documentation are available to view on our website [here](#).

With just over two weeks to go until the Christmas break, we're trying to get through to the end of term relatively unscathed. As ever, thank you for your continuing support.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Matthew Hagger
Group Managing Principal



Braeside School

130 High Road, Buckhurst Hill
Essex IG9 5SD
020 8504 1133

Braeside School is the trading name of Braeside School Ltd, registered in England to 6 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA Company no: 0783067



Coopersale Hall School

Flux's Lane, Epping
Essex CM16 7PE
01992 577133

Coopersale Hall School is the trading name of Coopersale Hall School Ltd, registered in England to 6 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA Company no: 3524644



Normanhurst School

68-74 Station Road
North Chingford E4 7BA
020 8529 4307

Normanhurst School is the trading name of Normanhurst School Ltd, registered in England to 6 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA Company no: 9380841



Oaklands School

8 Albion Hill, Loughton
Essex IG10 4RA
020 8508 3517

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Mrs A Hagger Cert.Ed.

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Group Bursar:
Mrs S Hewitt