

Dear parents/carers

I hope that you are managing to get through the half-term break in good spirits and health, which as you know we extended by an extra week as precaution against rising Covid rates. In fact, it seems that we took a decision that many people in the academic, health and education sectors have been calling loudly for the government to take for some time. With this in mind, and with the support you gave to our decision, there is a good chance that our school begins the new half-term in good health, Covid-wise.

Ahead of Fortis opening to students again on Monday 2nd November, I would like to remind you how important it is for your children to bring their own masks and that they take responsibility for their safe keeping and use. They will still be required to be worn by students and staff in communal areas, whilst remaining optional in the classroom.

As you know, the daily news is dominated by Covid-19 and its increasing transmission rates. For many families therefore, this will be a worrying time. So as a reminder to you, please be reassured that we will very much continue to liaise closely, on a daily basis if necessary, with Public Health England, the Department for Education and Birmingham local authority on all Covid-related matters. They have praised all of our responses so far for being handled in a professional and calm manner at all times.

At the end of this letter, I provide a summary of the things that will continue to be in place for everyone's safety. However, as robust as our plans are in school, we all need to work together to limit potential exposure and keep Fortis open for everyone's benefit. In writing to you regularly, I also want to continue to build your support so that Fortis is a place where safety comes before every other consideration.

Thank you all for your understanding in recent weeks and I look forward to seeing all students back again on Monday, enjoying their school.

Your sincerely



Alberto Otero
Campus Principal

How we will continue to keep your child safe.

- We will continue to keep students in their year group bubbles which means that we know where children are and with whom they may have had contact.
- We will re-emphasise the importance of wearing masks and ensure that they are worn in all communal areas and corridors.
- We have hand sanitising stations throughout the school for use in classrooms before, during and after lessons. Students are further encouraged to wash their hands during the day.
- We are maintaining social distancing and one-way systems around school with clear signage and advice on display.
- We have cancelled all assemblies, large gatherings and activities which might raise the possibility of transmission of COVID-19.

What else are we doing?

- For the foreseeable future, we are cancelling all but essential visitors from coming into school, extra-curricular activities and visits from external agencies.
- We will soon be reducing the time that students spend in their year groups during lunchtimes – more details will be provided
- Providing an enhanced cleaning schedule in any areas where positive cases may have been, in addition to thorough and regular cleaning of the building.
- We will review these actions regularly and increase measures if needed.

How you can help

- It is vitally important that you DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL if you know or suspect that they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 or are showing symptoms. If there is any doubt at all do not send your child and call the school for advice.
- If you or your child are self-isolating it is important that you do not leave the house for any reason. This again limits the risk of transmission with other people.
- Please send your child to school with a face mask. If they are not wearing a mask they may not be allowed into the building. This is not just for their own safety but for everyone.
- If your child has a medical exemption, please ensure that the school knows and that medical evidence is provided.
- Make sure you keep up to date with the latest Government guidance. Advice changes frequently. The best page to check is <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> but call if unsure.