

23rd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Update for parents of children coming into school – please action

We would like to thank many of you for responding to our request that **only the children of those whose work is critical to our country's response to Covid-19 should leave their child at school, and then only when they have no other choice.** We remain committed to doing everything we can to limit the spread of COVID-19 and prevent tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths.

We had previously asked children to wear school uniform when in attendance. Having reflected, we have reconsidered and believe we can take further steps to reduce the risk of children bringing the virus home from school. As a result, as from tomorrow we propose:

- Children do **not** have to come into school wearing uniform.
- Children should wear **clean, washed clothes** to school every day.
- Children should wear something suitable. Suitable means something simple and comfortable that provides freedom of movement so they can participate in physical activity and can be washed every day. This may be their uniform or PE kit, **but only if it is washed each day.**
- Children should wear trainers so they do not need to change their shoes to participate in physical activities
- Children should wear their hair up and tied away from their face if long enough. This is to prevent them from touching their hair and face.
- Children should not wear any jewellery and should keep their nails short.
- Headphones should not be brought into school.
- If possible, send your child in with a supply of tissues in case they need to cough during the day

There is no official advice on what children should do on arrival home from school. As soon as we are in a position to update you on this, we will, but until then we feel the following measures would be sensible if at all practicable:

- As soon as they arrive home from school, children should remove their clothes to be washed. You may wish to have a bin bag ready by the door they enter through for them to place clothes into to be carried through and put in the wash.

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- They should not touch anything before washing their hands. They and the person collecting them should also wash your hands on arrival home, and after touching their clothes to put them in the wash. Remember to wash your hands before touching the door/buttons on the washing machine. If possible leave it open before you pick your child up from school.
- If possible, tell your child to have a shower as soon as they arrive home, washing their hands, faces, body and hair.
- Consider whether your child can bring their equipment to school in a washable canvas/fabric bag which can be cleaned regularly (daily if possible). If not possible, consider whether this bag needs to be brought into the house. If it can be left in the car/garage/shed you should do so.
- If you can, avoid cuddling or touching your child until they have done this. We appreciate this is very difficult, especially with small children, in which case aim to follow the same procedure as your child – remove and wash clothes and shower on arriving home.
- If you or your child touch anything before handwashing, for example your car steering wheel, door handles, it may be advisable to clean them with disinfectant

During this time, please continue to follow all advice regarding self-isolation for 14 days if anybody in the household shows symptoms (a new, persistent cough or temperature). Should your child start to display any signs of illness – whatever the symptoms – they will need to be collected immediately.

We are still acting and taking decisions in an unknown situation so we appreciate your patience with us. We are constantly reviewing and considering our actions and taking any steps we can to keep your children safe whilst they are with us. We appreciate your support in enabling us to minimise the risk to your children, their peers, their teachers and the larger community. We know that, as keyworkers, this is crucial to you.

Thank you for all you are doing and please continue to do all you can to remain safe.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Lock', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Stuart Lock
CEO
Advantage Schools