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| **Covid-19 Update - 1st November 2020**  |
| Dear Parents,I hope that you are well and that your children have had an enjoyable half-term break. In light of last night's announcement by the Prime Minister, and the continued rise in coronavirus cases locally and nationwide, the changes detailed below are being made to our practice for the forthcoming half-term. I apologise that in some cases we are still awaiting further detail on the impact of yesterday's speech on particular elements of school life and, as with all of my covid-19 updates, everything below is subject to change at short notice. I will let you know as soon as possible if there are further amendments to be made. Beyond the issues addressed below, all other covid risk mitigation measures from prior to half-term will remain in place - including the staggered start and end times and associated arrangements for pick up and drop off. I am determined that we should be able to keep the school site open for children to be in lessons. We had a successful start to the school year and I aim for this to continue until Christmas and beyond. If this is to be possible we will of course all need to play our part and so I thank you in advance for taking the time to read the points below and helping to implement them from next week onwards. As ever, if you have any questions or concerns related to coronavirus, please don't hesitate to address them to me.Kind regardsPaul Savage **Pupils*** From Thursday, all Senior School pupils should wear face coverings when moving around the school site **indoors**. They should remove these during lessons and may also remove them when outside or when eating in the refectory and store them in a clean bag during those times. All face coverings should be in a plain design without slogans/logos/pictures etc. and children are responsible for having their own and for keeping them clean and using them appropriately. Junior and Kindergarten pupils are advised not to wear masks in school.
* **AWAITING FURTHER INFORMATION:** From Thursday, we are awaiting directions for clinically vulnerable/clinically extremely vulnerable pupils. Until further clarity is provided, these pupils continue to be expected to attend the school site as before half-term and in accordance with existing guidance. Update will be provided as soon as possible.
* All existing arrangements from before half-term continue to apply, including procedures for reporting absence/illness/self-isolation. Pupils must not attend school under any circumstance and should self-isolate if they have any one of these coronavirus symptoms: a persistent cough; a temperature; a loss of taste or smell. See main risk assessment for further detail. Strong hygiene remains essential and children will continue to be required to wash their hands regularly during the school day.
* Wraparound care offer continues as before half-term. This should be booked via e-mail to preandpostschool@gadshillschool.org and  must be made by 6pm the day before to allow for relevant measures to be put in place.
* Hot lunch service will continue as before half-term.

**Parents & Visitors*** All parents must wear face coverings anywhere on the school site, indoors or outdoors, during drop off and collection times and when visiting reception.
* Parent meetings should as often as possible be held by telephone rather than face-to-face. Essential face-to-face meetings may take place on the school site by appointment only.
* Planned form tutor consultations in the Senior School this half-term will be replaced by online subject teacher meetings – further details to follow.
* Please limit time on the school site. When waiting to collect please stay in cars for as long as possible. Do not attend the school site for any reason if you or a member of your household have symptoms of coronavirus.

**Progress Tests*** Progress tests for Sh-L5 can continue this week: each pupil will have their own allocated desk throughout the test period; the room is spacious and high-ceilinged; desks are distanced from each other; there is a reduction in the need for bubbles to pass each other around the school site.
* Scribes/readers should wear face coverings if they are required to work within 2m of a pupil for more than 15minutes.

**Staff*** All colleagues will wear face coverings when moving around the school site **indoors**. These can be removed: while teaching, assisting teaching or otherwise working with children in a classroom or exam room; working at a desk; when alone in a room; or when eating. Colleagues who in the course of their duties are unable to keep a distance of more than 2m from other adults or children for more than 15 minutes at a time should wear a face covering, including when in a classroom with pupils (teachers are reminded that they should try to maintain a distance from others as much as possible within a classroom so that this will not be necessary).
* Colleagues have been asked to ensure that rooms, particularly classrooms, are kept well-ventilated. Doors and windows should be open wherever possible. As winter approaches, concessions will be made to usual uniform rules where necessary to ensure that pupils remain warm - these will be at the teacher's discretion.

**Sport, Events & Trips*** **AWAITING FURTHER INFORMATION:** Swimming is expected to continue at Strood up to and including Wednesday of this week: Remove swimming will therefore take place as planned tomorrow, Monday 2nd November. Shell swimming scheduled for Wednesday 4th November was already cancelled due to progress tests this week. Mr McDowell will update parents for arrangements from Thursday onwards once Strood Leisure Centre have been able to confirm whether they can remain open for sole use by our school.
* **AWAITING FURTHER INFORMATION:** U5 trampolining *may* be able to continue this half term with the centre open for sole use by the school: the trampolining centre are awaiting further guidance on this issue. Mr McDowell will update parents for arrangements from this Thursday onwards as soon as possible.
* PE lessons - we will continue to deliver PE lessons in the safest way possible, teaching sports in a non-contact manner, and will continue to sanitise equipment and facilities after use by each bubble. If parents have any PE related questions, please email b.mcdowell@gadshillschool.org
* LAMDA and peripatetic music sessions are expected to continue as they were before half-term.
* **AWAITING FURTHER INFORMATION:** Further detail required from government regarding status of educational visits off school sites during lockdown.
* All adults and Senior School children should wear face coverings while on school transport.
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