



Thursday 18th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases continue to increase in the Barking & Dagenham area, the Director of Public Health and health protection teams have recommended that secondary school age pupils wear face coverings in communal areas, across areas with high or rapidly increasing prevalence.

From Friday 19th of November 2021, we will recommend that all our secondary-aged pupils wear a face covering in communal areas in the school. This includes, when entering and leaving school, when moving between classrooms and when in the dining hall (except when eating and drinking). Pupils do not need to wear face coverings when they are outside in the playground and when in their classroom. Pupils who are exempt from wearing a face covering will not be required to do so in school.

The Directors of Public Health and health protection teams also continue to emphasise the importance of twice weekly LFD testing as the most secure way that the government has introduced to ensure that pupils can remain at school and reduce the risk of the spread of the infection. Therefore, we would like to remind parents/carers that Lateral Flow testing kits continue to be available for collection or can be sent home with your child, if requested. If you would like any LFD testing kits, please email the school at bridge@riverside.bardaglea.org.uk

We want to minimise the disruption to teaching and learning as much as possible and we would like to clarify that pupils should continue to attend school unless they have symptoms of Covid-19 or a positive PCR test. If your child has been a close contact of a pupil, who has tested positive for Coronavirus, we will write to you recommending they get a PCR test, if possible. They should still continue to attend school while they wait for the results of their PCR test, if they are asymptomatic. However, if they have any Covid-19 symptoms or test positive on a LFD test, we would ask they self-isolate whilst waiting for the results of their PCR test.

These measures are designed to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 in school and the wider community and we would like to thank all parents/carers for their continued support.

Kindest Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Amri'.

Miss L. Amri
Deputy Headteacher