



# Barthol Chapel School

## Face Coverings in School

Guidance for pupils and staff on the use of face coverings in schools and on school transport has been updated.

In light of the latest scientific and public health advice, including World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, face coverings should now (unless exemptions apply) be worn on dedicated school transport by all children aged five and over, bringing it into line with guidance for public transport. This will take effect from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

I would like to stress that face coverings do not need to be surgical or other medical grade masks, but rather a covering of the nose and mouth that is made of cloth, or other textiles, through which you can breathe, such as a scarf.

As your child adjusts to this new normal, questions are sure to come up. Do your best to stay calm and reassure your child that wearing a mask is what is best for everyone's safety. We will be reinforcing this message in school. Here are a few responses to consider when discussing with your child.

### "Why do I have to wear a mask?"

*Remember when we talked about covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze? How that helps to not spread germs? Well, right now we have to be extra careful — so wearing a mask slows down the spread of germs. Some people may get really sick because of this new virus, so when you put your mask on, you're becoming a special helper — you're helping everyone stay safe.*

### "But it's scary. I don't want to wear it."

*I know, it can feel a little scary, but I promise you're doing something really nice to help other people. And remember, Mum, Dad, your friends and teachers are wearing masks too.*

## Putting on a face mask

A cloth face mask will provide the proper level of protection for your child. The adult versions may be too big, so try to find one that is child-sized or has adjustable straps. We will discuss with the children the safe way to use a facemask. Can you also discuss this at home.

*When it's time to go on the school bus:*

- 1. Place your mask across your face, covering the nose and mouth. Make sure it's a snug fit!*
- 2. Try not to touch the face mask or any area of the face when wearing your mask.*
- 3. When you get off the bus, carefully take off your face mask by the straps and keep it safe in your school bag or pocket.*
- 4. Wash or sanitise your hands.*
- 5. At home we will need to remember to wash our face masks in the washing machine or by hand with soap.*

## Barthol Chapel School

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Mr Adrian Anderson  
Head Teacher

School Website

[www.bartholchapel.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.bartholchapel.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)





### Flu Immunisation Forms

Your child will arrive home with a Flu Immunisation Pack today which contains a yellow consent form. Please complete this form and return to school in the brown envelope by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September. The vaccine will be given as a painless nasal (nose) spray into each nostril.

### ParentsPortal

Mrs Allan thanks all parents for their patience and understanding when trying to join ParentPortal account. If you have not already tried to access this, please have a go. If you have any problems, please email the school.

### Colds, coughs and Fevers

Already we are hearing that many schools are reporting an increase in cold/flu symptoms. And this year we have the added worry of COVID-19. I have to be upfront and stress that this is going to lead to many concerns and disruptions in the months ahead. Children can get coronavirus (COVID-19), but they seem to get it less often than adults and it is usually less serious.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If a child displays any of these symptoms, then they **will need to be tested**. If they develop in school, we will contact you immediately to collect your child. Any siblings will also be sent home and cannot attend school.

It is vital that you:

1. Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible. Click here to book a test: [Test & Protect](#)
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.
3. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.

Please keep in touch with the school during this time. If there is anything we can support you with please ask. We will try to support you as much as we can.

If the test result is negative, then your child and household can return to school/work if no other member of the household has symptoms.

If the test result is positive, the affected individual self-isolates for 10 days and the remaining household for 14 days. Please inform the school of positive test result and cooperate with Test & Protect Contact Tracing.

Can I stress that I can only notify Parents/Carers of any positive results in consultation with the Health Protection Team. I am not able to notify Parents/Carers every time someone has symptoms or tests negative due to patient confidentiality.

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