

November 2020

Headlines

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please could you ensure that your child brings a face mask to school with them every day and, if it is a temporary one, also a spare just in case they lose it, or it breaks. We are currently having lots of students arriving without them, which is taking up lots of staff time calling home to request permission for them to return home and collect one, or for parents to bring one in. During the first week following the holiday we issued them to students who didn't have one because the rule changed over the break, but we cannot continue to do this. Students without a face mask will remain in isolation until they have one as it is the government's directive that all students and staff wear facemasks in communal areas and corridors. Thank you for your support with this.

On another note, following a query from a parent, scissors should not be brought into school; they are not part of the required equipment. At school we have scissors that are designed to be 'school-safe' and these are what are used.

There have been some rumours floating around recently about Covid positive cases in school. Please be assured that we are highly vigilant in this matter and that if your child had been affected by anyone who had tested positive you would be informed. You are only required to self-isolate if you were in contact with a positive case 48 hours before their first symptoms developed; if symptoms develop students are immediately sent home – we take no risks.

This year again we will be supporting the Swindon Toy appeal which is being organised by Gateway Church. We recognise that many more families than usual will be struggling financially this year and we want to avoid parents getting into debt in order to provide Christmas presents for their children. We are asking that, if you are able, that you purchase a present suitable for a child aged 0 – 16 and bring it into school by 7th December. You do not need to wrap your gift, but it does need to be new or unused. We will be a collection point for the presents which will be distributed amongst needy families, and we as a school are able to nominate families that would benefit from receiving presents. You can also make a donation if you wish, as I know that it isn't very easy buying presents during lockdown! You can find suggestions of toys to buy on: www.gatewaychurchswindon.org.uk and on Facebook [@Swindontoyappeal](https://www.facebook.com/Swindontoyappeal). Financial donations can be made [here](#), under **My Donations are for**, select **Christmas Toy Appeal**. Under **One-off donation**, enter the amount you'd like to donate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who send us positive messages from time to time; they really do brighten our day and make a positive difference. On the other hand, if you do have a concern, please raise it with us as we are always willing to listen and can resolve most issues in this way.

Many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sherryl Bareham