

12th October 2020

Dear Parents and Families

I would like to begin by thanking you all for supporting West Alvington Academy as we find our way through this 'new normal' that we currently find ourselves in. The children have settled brilliantly and our curriculum offer is increasingly in full swing because of the support and understanding that you have provided in this first part of the school year.

We have shared our risk assessments with you - <https://westalvington-lap.co.uk/parents/letters-parents/> and we informed you that we would continue to review them. We are writing to you to let you know of some of the most recent changes to our procedures and to both ask and thank you for your continued support with this.

School's are naturally a place where parents need to communicate with members of staff and doing this in a pandemic presents risks and challenges. We have seen an ever increasing number of adult face-to-face interactions for our staff as the term progresses, not just with colleagues in the classroom but with parents passing on messages at the start and end of the day.

Having reviewed our risk assessment, and in an effort to protect all adults in this changing climate, we have asked that, from Monday 12th October, parents or children over the age of 12 wear face coverings when they drop their child off. We appreciate that some people are exempt from wearing face coverings and know it is important to make sure that members of our community are not judged in a negative way if they are unable to wear one.

You will also notice that from tomorrow, members of staff will also be wearing masks at the beginning and end of the day. These will be removed once children are in their normal bubbles. Our administrators will also be wearing masks if you need to come into the school office.

Under normal circumstances we welcome the informal conversations with parents as this helps us to have a better understanding of the children in our care as well as addressing any concerns as soon as they arise. However, in the current climate, please can we remind parents to try to contact school staff via westalvington@lapsw.org or book telephone appointments, as necessary, for conversations. Where possible, this will enable teachers to be prepared with information and provide a proper confidential environment to discuss individual children as well as reducing the risk of transmission.

Like you, we long for the day when school can go back to normal. However, in this time of the pandemic we feel that it is right to take every precaution to protect the pupils, staff and community. This is why we thank you, in advance for your support and partnership working.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Miss Coombe
Head of Academy



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