



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

19th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

A warm welcome back to all our students today for the start of the summer term. I hope families have managed to enjoy their time together over the Easter period.

As we return we would like to take this opportunity to reinforce some key messages and advise you about some forthcoming changes.

The government confirmed, over the Easter break, that face coverings should continue to be worn in secondary school classrooms as a precautionary measure. We envisage this guidance will be in place until 17th May when restrictions are expected to be further reduced. We appreciate that wearing masks for extended periods is not always easy. Our practice of ensuring students line up for lessons outdoors, means that masks can at least be removed for this period of time. Before Easter our experience with students wearing masks in school was extremely positive and thank you for your support with this matter. Whilst a number of staff have now been vaccinated there are still concerns and worries about potential exposure to the virus. Remaining cautious and taking actions that limit the possible spread of the virus is reassuring to the school community.

All staff and students are also expected to continue with twice weekly home testing using the supplied lateral flow tests. We will distribute further test kits as we receive them at school. We have not yet been given an end date for such testing but expect this is likely to be reviewed as part of the gradual relaxing of restrictions planned from 17th May. We will keep you informed of any updates or changes as we receive them. If your son or daughter has a positive test result using the supplied lateral flow kits they need to isolate immediately and book a PCR test to confirm the result. Please keep the school informed of any positive test results.

We are introducing a pre-ordering system for our canteen. We hope this makes the ordering of food for lunchtimes more reliable, ensuring that we are able to provide the right number of hot dishes for those who wish to have them. Students wishing to eat a main hot meal at lunchtime will need to pre-order their meal beforehand using the pre-order app or pre-order website. Pre-orders can be made, and cancelled, up until 8am on the day the order is for. Students will then be able to collect their pre-ordered food from their usual designated area, and will be able to purchase extra items alongside as usual.

Imberhorne Lane
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 1QY

Tel: 01342 323562

E-Mail: info@imberhorne.co.uk

www.imberhorne.co.uk





The pre-order system will only operate for the main hot meal at lunchtime - break times will operate as usual, and other food will continue to be available at lunchtime without pre-ordering (including jacket potatoes, baguettes, salads, snacks and drinks). Unless cancelled, pre-ordered items will be charged to the student's cashless catering account. It is important therefore that students collect their food once ordered. If a student orders food but is then absent and unable to collect their meal, refunds will be provided.

We will be phasing the introduction of the pre-ordering system to allow us to fine tune our procedures - starting with Years 10-13 at Imberhorne Lane from Monday 26th April, followed by Years 7-9 at Windmill Lane on Tuesday 4th May. We will be emailing registration details for the pre-order system to all students on Wednesday 21st April - this will go to their school email accounts.

With the gradual relaxing of restrictions life slowly feels like it is returning to normal. Like many organisations, we have had to undertake a great deal of change in a relatively short period of time. We are now reviewing these changes and considering what new practices should stay in place. Something that seems to have been very well received has been the on-line consultation evenings.

We recognise that for busy working parents the opportunity to pre-book a number of virtual meetings without the added complication of travelling to and from the school and the inevitable movement around our buildings during the course of the evening, can be seen as a more efficient model. If we moved towards holding virtual meetings it would significantly reduce face to face contact. Over time that may not be ideal. We do wonder however about introducing a mixed economy, whereby consultation evenings for some year groups may be virtual with others being face to face. For example, consultation evenings for Year 7 and Year 9 could be face to face with Year 8 being a virtual consultation evening. We will welcome your feedback and thoughts.

I will continue with my weekly letters for the duration of the summer term. In this period of rapid change regular communication is essential. Unless there is a significant development I will not write again this week, so my next letter will be on Friday 30th April. This is also the date of our next non-uniform day. Further details about the charity we are supporting will be shared prior to that date.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher