



# Brine Leas School

An Academy

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28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Some of the [reopening documents on the school website](#) are being updated and I would urge you to keep checking this section as we approach the start of the new term. The Local Authority is also constantly updating its [information on school transport](#) so please check there too if that affects your son/daughter.

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public\\_transport/school\\_transport/school\\_transport.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport/school_transport/school_transport.aspx)

One of the biggest changes this week was in the guidance published on face coverings in educational settings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education>

There are mandatory and advisory parts of the guidance. This allows educational leaders, including Headteachers, Local Governing Boards and Academy Trusts the direction and authority to be able to make the best decision for their school, their community and ultimately based on their own individual circumstances.

The Local Governing Board for Brine Leas School have decided that it will be necessary for staff and students to wear a face covering at certain times in the school buildings. Every school has to consider its own corridors, classrooms, break and lunch facilities and arrangements and we have decided that this is a necessary step to take every possible measure to protect our staff and students.

**This means that it will be necessary for every student to have a reusable, or a number of disposable face coverings when they return to school.**

I'm sure you can understand that when Government guidance is published with less than a week to go before the start of the academic year, it takes time to properly plan and implement the measures in the guidance. That is why I have informed you of the immediate differences to our plans at the earliest possible opportunity. We will continue to update the website with the latest information, including how this is implemented in school.

Headteacher  
David Cole

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We cannot provide free face coverings for students, but we are working hard with local businesses and our own school staff as to how we can offer a low-cost solution where families are having difficulty sourcing reusable or disposable face coverings themselves. Where financial hardship may prevent access to a face covering, then please contact our Business Manager, Mrs K Bradshaw, via [info@brineleas.co.uk](mailto:info@brineleas.co.uk). There are currently no technical requirements for what constitutes a face covering in our setting, other than it must fully cover the mouth and nose.

"Due to the complexity of the different contexts in which COVID-19 can spread and the rapidly changing and growing evidence base on the effectiveness of face masks and coverings, there are currently no UK product standards for face coverings."  
[gov.uk]

If you are able to support the school with the need for face coverings, then please contact us via [info@brineleas.co.uk](mailto:info@brineleas.co.uk) with details.

Both myself and my staff are excited to see the students return to school, giving some measure of normality, despite the many differences in place in and around the school site. Please try to discuss the changes in place at school so that students are as ready as they can be when they return. We will reinforce and explain this in more detail when they return in a few days time.

Kind regards,

David Cole  
Headteacher

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