



## Garlinge Primary School and Nursery

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you very much for all the support and kind words that you have given over what has undeniably been a difficult week. It is much appreciated by all of the staff as we move towards half term.

I am writing to address the issue of face coverings within the school premises, which I have had a great deal of communication about throughout the term. I would like to thank the majority of you that have supported us in keeping the children and community safe. The position of the school remains the same in that we politely request that all parents and carers wear a face covering when they come to pick up their children. This is because, being the large school that we are, there are still occasional and brief pinch points that are unavoidable despite the one way systems and extra gates that we have provided. We will also continue to follow the government guidelines that state that staff within the school do NOT wear face coverings as their contact at the start and end of the day is usually very brief and outdoors which are both mitigating factors for transmission.

However, it is clear as we have seen cases within the school community this week, that we must continue to do whatever we can to ensure that our requests are adhered to where possible. We will therefore be at the main entrance and exit points at the start and end of the day to remind anyone who isn't wearing a face covering to put one on if at all possible. We completely understand that there are some people who are unable to wear a face covering for a range of reasons and we fully appreciate these reasons. Please forgive us if we make such a request to you, but it is virtually impossible to distinguish which people fall into this category purely by sight.

Finally, could I ask that you continue to support us in what is a difficult job for everyone and to keep safe within the school and whilst at home, by observing the government 'rule of six', maintaining good hand hygiene and not mixing unnecessarily. I am continuing to work with Public Health England and Kent County Council to ensure that we are doing all we can to maintain the safety of staff and pupils.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style.

James Williams  
Headteacher