



**The Priory School**

Headteacher: A Pope BA (Hons) PGCE MA  
Longden Road, Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire, SY3 9EE

01743 284000  
info@tpstrust.co.uk  
www.tpstrust.co.uk

11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for the poor timing of my letter, sent yesterday afternoon. We were unaware that there was going to be any update on the wearing of facemasks in classrooms. The news arrived with the Prime Minister's latest briefing, early yesterday evening, so just missed my general updates to you.

We have discussed the announcement this morning. Whilst we welcome its lifting in many ways, for example the easing of comfort for students, we do need to remain cautious. I still have a significant number of staff who have not received their first Covid vaccination. To safeguard everyone's well-being and the efficient running of the school (ensuring staff illness does not jeopardise the quality of classroom delivery) we would like to retain facemasks as **optional, within classrooms**. Many pupils felt safer wearing them before the government introduced them. We will continue to emphasise the message of maintaining the distance and high standards of hygiene as key factors in avoiding an outbreak. Compared to other local schools we have fared incredibly well in relation to 'bubbles' and year groups having to self-isolate and I would like to thank you for working closely with us in supporting our messages. I am under no illusion about how lucky we are to have such an incredibly supportive parental body.

**Please note that the government's guidance on wearing them in communal areas and corridors remains unchanged.** This will continue to be our expectation until this part of the guidance is removed. Please ensure your child has a mask and a spare with them as we are currently running low on stock due to students turning up to school without them. This not only has a cost implication for the school's budget but also an environmental impact which we should try to lessen wherever possible.

We will be reminding pupils that facial piercings should not be visible, this is with particular reference to nose piercings at the moment, but tongue studs should also not be worn. Earrings are allowed but only studs should be worn.

Kind regards

Mrs A Pope  
Headteacher