

1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we get ever closer to the start of term, I wanted to update you on a couple of aspects of the arrangements for September.

The first relates the Stagecoach public buses that many students travel on for their journey to and from school. As you will know we have been very concerned about these routes, as with the requirements for passengers to socially distance themselves from one another, the carrying capacity of these buses has been significantly reduced. In my letter I advised parents to try and make alternative arrangements if possible, to ensure that their children would be able to make the journey to school and home each day. However, I'm pleased to report that Devon County Transport have stepped in and liaised with Stagecoach to provide additional buses for students travelling to and from Tiverton and Cullompton.

These routes will operate as closed journeys and so will only carry school students. (Please note that face coverings must be worn when travelling by bus, unless medically exempt.) Details of the pick-up and drop-off timings can be found at this [link](#) – just select Uffculme School (near the bottom of the page).

The second thing relates to the wearing of face masks. The Department for Education guidance clearly remains that the wearing of face masks should not be necessary whilst in school, unless the school is operating in one of the 'areas of national government intervention' (i.e. where the transmission of the coronavirus is high). However, some parents have asked whether their child might be allowed to wear a mask when in corridors and other communal areas. Whilst I again want to reassure people about the strength of the protective measures we have put in place for the start of term, we want students and parents to be as confident as possible when they return. Therefore, any students that wishes to wear a face mask may do so when moving through the corridors and when in other shared spaces, provided that they remove it as they enter their classroom.

As always, we are keeping all of the safety arrangements for the school under constant review and will keep you informed if either the government advice changes, or the circumstances indicate that we need to amend our plans.

Finally, the Uffculme Academy Trust (of which the school is a part), has released a short summary of the safety arrangements that have been put in place in all of its schools. If you would like to read this summary it can be accessed through [this link](#).

We look forward to seeing your children back with us next week.

Best wishes



**A R Blackburn (Mr)**  
Headteacher