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# THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

*Love as Brethren*

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

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1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you to give you some key messages for the next term but also to express my admiration and gratitude towards your children, and yourselves, for how well they have coped with the most recent lockdown and the disruption to their education since Christmas. This has been another difficult term in what seems to have been a year of difficult terms, but once again our students have never failed to show respect, resilience, maturity, positivity and 'Love as Brethren'. The past few weeks have been fantastic; it has been wonderful to have the students back in school where they belong and all the staff have been overwhelmed with how well they have settled back into the routine of regular attendance at school.

As the vaccination programme continues to gain pace and Government lockdown measures are gradually eased, we are all looking forward to a brighter and better summer term. We are awaiting further guidance from the Government regarding any possible changes to the systems of control we have to have in place at school and as soon as we have further information we will of course pass this on.

In the meantime students return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April and they are to continue to follow the start and end times they currently use. Can I also please remind you that all students should come to school with a suitable plain face mask as we frequently have to give out anywhere up to 100 masks each day and this is obviously not sustainable. Thank you for your support with this and if the rulings about masks change we will of course let you know.

I would now like to give you some important messages for the term ahead.

## **Nuts**

We have a significant number of students in school who suffer from allergies, one of the most prevalent being an allergy to nut and nut dust. Whilst the School Canteen is a nut free zone, many students have been bringing nut based products into school in their packed lunches. Can I please ask you to be mindful when you are preparing your child's packed lunch that nuts may cause a serious problem for another student and so I would be grateful if you could avoid packing nuts and nut based products for your children.

## **Warmer weather**

As the weather continues to get warmer, can I please remind you that students should come to school with an adequate supply of water. We have drinking fountains at various locations around the school site which students can use to re-fill their water bottles at appropriate times such as break and lunch. Children should not be coming to the School Office to request bottles of water as there is plenty of fresh water available around the school. We are still allowing students to wear coats over their blazers but we will be regularly reviewing this as the need to wear coats will decrease as the temperature gets warmer.

## **Uniform**

I am aware that many parents and carers have had some difficulty over the recent lockdown with sourcing items of uniform such as shoes, due to the clothing and shoe shops being closed. If the easing of lockdown goes to plan, non-essential retail will be open from 12<sup>th</sup> April. I would be grateful if you could therefore endeavor to ensure that your child returns to school after the Easter break in full and correct uniform. If this is going to be an issue for you, please contact the relevant Head of Year to explain the situation. We wish to be as supportive as possible to parents and carers as they try to source correct uniform items for their child, whilst still maintaining our high standards and expectations.



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## Lateral Flow Device testing

Please could you ensure that your child continues to complete the Lateral Flow Device tests twice a week over the Easter break. Ideally this will be done on a Sunday and a Wednesday to ensure a sufficient gap between the two tests. The test results need to be logged on the NHS website and also on the relevant Google form for your child's year group. Please see below for the links.

Year 7 - [CLICK HERE](#)  
Year 8 - [CLICK HERE](#)  
Year 9 - [CLICK HERE](#)  
Year 10 - [CLICK HERE](#)  
Year 11 - [CLICK HERE](#)  
Year 12 - [CLICK HERE](#)  
Year 13 - [CLICK HERE](#)

Thank you for your support in this matter. Every test that is completed is a test which ensures the health and well-being of everybody in our community. Please note there has been a change in the Government guidance. If your child has a positive LFD test, it is important that they then take a PCR test which will verify the result. If the PCR test comes back as negative, that means that your child does not need to isolate. If the PCR test comes back as positive then the rules about isolation for 10 days have to be followed.

## Contact tracing over the Easter break

If your child has a positive LFD test result followed by a positive PCR test result, it is also important that you contact the school. This is so that we can trace any potential contacts of your child who may have been at risk of contracting Covid. Please phone the dedicated school number on 07966 236607 – not the absence line or the main school office. A member of staff will either answer the call or pick up your voicemail and call you back as soon as possible so that the contact tracing process can start.

Once again, I would like to say thank you to all of your children for everything they have done over this past term to continue to focus on their education and to continue to be an absolute pleasure to work with. Have a safe, happy and healthy Easter break and I look forward to seeing everybody return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours sincerely

**Sue Hay**  
Headteacher