



22 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Regarding: Wet Weather/Clothing and Detentions

We have been delighted with how well our students have responded to the new rules and procedures in school. At break and lunchtimes, the students have been very respectful of our environment with litter at a minimum and they have been socialising, whilst maintaining reasonable social distancing.

So far, the weather has been very kind, but with poor weather coming as winter approaches, we want you to be fully aware of our plans in the event of very poor weather. By very poor weather, we mean the rain is torrential.

1. In the event of very poor weather at break-time

Unless the weather is really awful, and given that break is only 15 minutes, we will be encouraging the children to go outdoors and get some fresh air. If the weather is too poor to brave going outside, we will adopt our WET LUNCH arrangements (see table below).

2. In the event of very poor weather at lunchtimes

Lunch is very short at 30 mins, but we are required to do all we can to avoid children being face to face and within 2m for more than a minute.

So, with safety at the forefront of our minds, if the weather is just unpleasant, we will ask the students to be outdoors rather than indoors.

If, however, the weather is really awful, we will respond as follows:

WET LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS		
Years	Lunchtime venue	Rationale
6, 7 and 8	Classrooms	The current gym (6) /small hall (7)/large hall (8) locations would require two sittings to be able to accommodate the whole year group and lunch is only 30 mins long. Although it is not ideal to have to eat in the classrooms, it enables the children to stay in their normal seats, facing forward. It also enables the school to maintain clear records of seating, important in the event of communication with the Local Outbreak Response Team.

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

www.tdms.worcs.sch.uk | office@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | Sports Centre: 07881 506156



WET LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS		
Years	Lunchtime venue	Rationale
9	Large Hall	With Year 8 in their classrooms, we are able to use the whole of the large hall for Year 9. It is then possible to have enough chairs, socially distanced and have all students facing forward. It is not necessary to have a specific seating plan as long as the children remain side by side.
10	Sport Hall	We are able to use the whole of the Sports Hall for Year 10. It is not possible to have enough chairs, but we can have all students facing forward, side by side, using the badminton lines. Students have said they will be happy with this arrangement and would prefer this rather than be in their classrooms. It is not necessary to have a specific seating plan, as long as the children remain side by side.
11	Science area and Year 11 classrooms	Year 11 have the smallest indoor area, so they are being allowed to choose which group they would wish to be part of, in the event of awful weather. They can then sit and eat in their chosen classroom and we will have to make a note of who is in which rooms and their chosen seating positions. It is then possible to have all students facing forward.
Sixth Form	Common Room, Private Study, Pavilion	A number of the sixth form are able to go home at lunchtime, so numbers are sufficiently low to enable sixth formers to be able to find somewhere safe and be socially distanced, to eat lunch.

If the weather clears up half way through lunchtime, we will encourage the students to go outside.

Clothing

- With our requirement to ensure ventilation, it is going to get cold
- We suggest wearing a white T shirt (long sleeved and thermal if possible) to be worn under their school shirt
- Please ensure your child has a school jumper or a plain black V neck jumper that they can wear
- They should not wear sweat shirts
- Students can still come to school in PE Kit when they have PE during that day, but they will need to have jogging bottoms or school leggings to keep them warm
- No hoodies please

Detentions

As I am sure you can appreciate, our office staff are spending enormous amounts of time fielding questions regarding COVID. In normal times, the office also texts parents to alert them of any detentions and we make 'out of area' phone calls to parents where buses are a concern. Although, fortunately, detention numbers are very low, we really do need your support to ensure the office time is not diverted to dealing with detentions. Please could you remind your child of the absolute necessity to avoid getting any detentions and be aware that the office will no longer be phoning parents regarding detentions, only a text alert will be sent.

Thank you, as always, for your support.



Guy Nichols