



## The News

**October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1pm ©**

*by Sarah Heath*

The Var préfecture has been contacting parents to pick up their children from school as a result of the intensity of rainfall expected this afternoon right across the département. Along with four other départements, the Var has been placed under an orange alert: Vaucluse, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, Alpes-Maritimes and Haute-Corse are also implicated. The Bouches-du-Rhône is still on red alert for possible flooding. In Marseille, the equivalent of two months of rain fell in just a few hours. There too, children will have to leave school early. The worst of the weather will end at around 9 o'clock this evening.

Children in 47 départements can, from this morning, go to school without a face mask being obligatory. These are in areas where the incidence rate of coronavirus is less than 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Additionally, sports activities are allowed outdoors and indoors without any restrictions. However, senior schools do not have the same rules being applied.

A survey has shown that 74% of French employees want to remove their masks in the workplace. This is what has emerged from questions asked by Ipsos-Sopra Steria for Le Parisien. According to this survey, employees say they feel reassured about their health in their offices and places of work. 67% of the employees questioned are in favor of the generalization of the health pass within companies.

The Swedish artist Lars Vilks, best known for having caricatured the prophet Mohammed, has been killed in a car accident. He had survived an attempt on his life in an attack in 2015 and lived permanently under police protection. A few years ago, he had created an image of the prophet with the body of a dog.

Bernard Tapie's funeral will take place on Friday in Marseille at the Sainte Marie-Majeure

cathedral. On the eve of the funeral, people will be able to come to the Vélodrome stadium, where a chapel will be set up. Olympique Marseille supporters are expected in large numbers.

And finally in a first, today a Frenchman will take command of the International Space Station. Thomas Pesquet will be responsible for the other six members of the crew and will lead the mission until November before returning to Earth.