



## **The News ©**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 9am**

*by Emma Phillips*

As of today, primary school children in a further 12 départements will not be required to wear masks during their lessons. The easing of protocol is thanks to improving Covid numbers. Included in today's départements are the Ain, Drôme and the Gard. A total of 79 départements now do not require primary school children to wear masks.

A new set of workgroups, dubbed the General Estates of Justice, is launched today by their Presidential sponsor. Emmanuel Macron has set up the groups to try to improve public confidence in the justice system, via rolling out concrete measures.

Today sees the beginning of the trial in the case of rigged polls used by the Elysee. Five people who were close aides of Nicolas Sarkozy are on trial, including the former secretary general of the presidency Claude Guéant and former adviser Patrick Buisson. Contracts worth millions of euros were made with polling agencies without any call for tenders.

The defence team for Cédric Jublar will be filing another request for release today. Jublar has been charged with the murder of his wife Delphine, although his lawyers say there are no grounds. Some days ago, Jublar was questioned at length by the investigating judges. He continues to plead his innocence.

One of the campaign promises of the Mayor of Paris will come to fruition today with the set up of the city's municipal police. Anne Hidalgo has introduced a new team of 154 men and women to the capital city, whose main mission is to target anti-social behaviour. The team is expected to grow to 3,600 officers over the next five years.

And finally to football and Lyon are currently third on the leader board at the end of day 10 of the Ligue 1. OM won 4-1 against Lorient last night. Earlier in the evening, Montpellier won 1-0 to Lens and Saint Etienne lost out 5-1 against Strasbourg.