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COVID19 Symptoms and Absence from School

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have had a number of phone calls and messages this morning and over the weekend about pupils being unwell. The advice from DfE & PHE is as follows

As in any year, as schools go back, children may pick up common colds or feel unwell with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These children may need to stay off school and parents/carers should call their GP or dial 111 to seek medical advice if they are concerned about their child's health.

Please see this and the other very useful Q&A's below from the DfE & PHE which came out over the weekend at the link below:

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/09/04/coronavirus-transmission-in-schools-your-questions-answered/>

What symptoms should schools be looking out for? How can schools tell if a pupil has just a cold, or whether it might be coronavirus?

The Department for Education has worked closely with Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace to ensure that we are doing all we can to minimise the potential risks of spread. A key part of this is recognising the correct symptoms.

As a school we recommend our pupils and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

1. They develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell; or
2. They are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse).

If a child is tested because they are unwell, they should stay off school until they receive a result. Please note that the household, including brothers and sisters who may attend our school will need to isolate until the test results are returned. If you receive a negative result and they have NO symptoms, they can return to school the next day. If symptoms are still present they must continue to isolate for 10 days. If you receive a positive test, school will be informed but please let us know as soon as you do.

If you are contacted by Test and Track or have returned from an exempt country, you will be required to self isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative test.

If your child is absent due to COVID19 but are well enough, they must access daily learning through our Remote Learning Plan.

Our usual absence reporting remains in place and you must call the school office to advise us if your child is off school and the reason for this absence.

Our pupils have missed a significant amount of schooling, they should only be kept off if it is completely necessary. We will be monitoring attendance very carefully in the coming weeks and will support you all as much as possible to make sure your child is in school and on time every day.

Kind regards

Mrs Morris