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Dear Parents

Firstly, thank you for your ongoing support with the arrangements the school has put in place.

As was the case last week, I will continue to update as and when there is additional information to share which might help to keep expectations clear and fair for all.

What happens if my child is ill?

If your child is showing any of the symptoms which have been detailed as being Coronavirus related, they should not attend school. Parents are the best judges of their children's health and there will always be colds and other bugs which show similar symptoms, but in the current situation, for the good of the school community, please be cautious.

The testing system does not seem to be working brilliantly well, but if you are worried about your child's health and they are showing one or more of the symptoms below, then it would be best to get them tested before they return to school. This is also the expectation we have of staff.

The symptoms to watch out for are;

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

1. A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
2. A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
3. A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

In the event that children display these symptoms at school, they would be separated from the rest of the class until they can be collected and would need to self isolate until such time as a test shows they are able to come back or, if the test is positive, they would need to self isolate for 14 days.

There is also a wider set of symptoms that may be related to COVID 19 which are set out below. If your child displays any of these symptoms, please be cautious about sending them into school. If in doubt contact NHS 111.

Signs and symptoms of COVID 19 in children include:

- Fatigue
- Headache
- Myalgia (muscle pain)
- Nasal congestion
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Poor appetite

If there is a confirmed case within a class bubble, then that bubble would need to self isolate for 14 days. This is also true if a member of staff, attached to that bubble, tests positive. It would also be true of any children or staff who would likely have been in close contact between classes within a bubble. The school will work with the local health protection team to ensure full compliance.

There is further information on Covid 19 in children on the NHS website;

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Attendance

It is really pleasing to be able to let you know that the attendance at school last week was 98%. This is 15% higher than the Medway average and 10% higher than the national average and I feel means that families feel that arrangements at the school are as safe as they can reasonably be. Thank you for your support in this.

Masks

Again, could I remind parents that wherever possible, masks are worn at drop off and pick up times, particularly when collecting and entering the school site. It is the expectation that staff wear masks at this time and the only exceptions are those members of staff who are exempt.

Assessments

Throughout the week we will be assessing the children in order to work out where they are in terms of their learning and how we can support them in terms of lost learning and the learning gap. These are not designed to be 'tests' and the children will be supported to do their best. This is simply to get the most detail we can in order to put the right support in place.

We have a number of staff and children awaiting tests or test results and some are clearly unwell. In order to keep classes, year groups and the school open as well as people safe and well, Parents Please help us by...

WEARING A MASK WHEN IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO OTHERS

KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE

DROPPING AND GOING OR COLLECTING AND GOING

KEEPING PATHS AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE

FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL ADVICE AND THE SCHOOL ADVICE TO SET AN EXAMPLE TO THE CHILDREN

KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME IF THEY ARE DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS AND GETTING A TEST IF POSSIBLE