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Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you all for your support and kind comments this week as we complete our first full week of school. As a staff team we continue to be very impressed with all of the children, in all year groups. They continue to cope well with our new routines and are working and playing well.

That said, we have learnt much this week and will continue to adapt things as we go along. Most days schools receive an update from the Government, Department for Education and Local Authority and we review our procedures and thinking in light of this.

The information below is the most up to date we have, at the time of writing. It is, of course, subject to change.

Children with colds

This week we have had large numbers of children off with colds, which is not entirely unexpected for the time or year nor given that children are now all back with their peers. This is in spite of regular handwashing and increased cleaning in school. We hope this will now settle after this initial burst.

We would like to thank you all for your caution this week around this and for keeping children at home at the first sign of illness, however mild.

However, we will now say that if your child just has a very mild cold eg with runny or slightly blocked nose but not a temperature and none of the other symptoms of Covid-19, that they can, and should, still come to school in the usual way. This is so long as they feel fine in themselves and you would normally have sent them in.

Again, to be clear, if you would usually have sent them to school with tissues in their pocket for the day as they have a mild cold, then you can continue to send them. Please do let us know though so that we know you have made this decision.

When is a cold a cold and when is it Covid-19?

This is the most asked question this week from staff and parents alike. We follow the Government guidance which states that the symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- a high temperature (feels hot to the touch on chest or back)
- 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)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Children with these specific symptoms (so more than a regular runny/blocked nose and occasional tickly cough) should stay at home and go for a Covid-19 test. If the test comes back negative then they can return to school the next day or when they seem well enough if they are still poorly. We suggest, as you are likely already doing,



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that you know what your child's 'normal' temperature is for them (by thermometer or touch) and that if they seem unwell before school that you check their temperature.

In school we will, by next week, have a thermometer to hand. If we telephone you to say your child is unwell we will, with your permission, also check their temperature which will help us to know whether they need to be in isolation with staff in PPE, prior to collection. It is important to remember that children can become unwell with other illnesses or ailments, not just Covid-19.

What if anyone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms?

If anyone in your household displays Covid-19 symptoms your child should not attend school and you should follow the self-isolation guidance provided by the government along with arranging a Covid-19 test.

You should also inform Mrs Powell in the school office as soon as possible. Your child should return to school if the test for your household member comes back negative.

Now that the Government has reduced gatherings to 6 people what does this mean for clubs at school?

The current guidance says that schools are exempt from the 6 person group size, so school clubs can continue as planned.

Finally...

Please can you ensure that you are moving off the school site at the end of the day as soon as you are able. This week we have seen several children playing on the playground and especially climbing on the walls. Children are not allowed to climb on the walls at any time during the school day and we ask that you do not allow them to do this at the end of the day. This applies to the wall in the playground and also the wall by the school office. Many thanks.

We are, as ever, grateful for your continued support and will do our best to keep you informed of any new developments.

Kind regards
Vicky Barron
Head teacher



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