

Learning together to be the best we can be

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Dear Parents

As we approach the end of our first full week in school attendance continues to be good, systems are becoming clearer and pick ups / drop offs appear to be running more smoothly; thank you to all of you for your support with this.

I know many of you will be aware of cases in local schools, where bubbles/cohorts have had to close and isolate for 14 days. This, may have caused some concern among you but please be assured there are clear procedures in place in schools should there be a confirmed case and public health would guide the school on this matter. Please trust we will always be transparent and keep you informed should there be a positive case in school.

I am sure you are all aware of the new advice the government has introduced for England. We are all required to be very flexible and adapt quickly at this time and life can sometimes seem a little confusing as changes are made in response to COVID spikes.

Yesterday, Public Health England issued new advice for schools based on what they have learned from recent Scottish experience. They have asked school to share with parents the latest guidelines. In summary the intention is to avoid a similar surge in test demand which was seen in Scotland.

The latest advice is for us to recommend tests for pupils and/or staff who feel unwell and if 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.

The advice states there is only a need for the person with the symptoms to be tested. There is no need for their households to be tested unless they have symptoms too. This will help alleviate the demand for tests.

Where children are well, we cannot stress enough the importance of attending school every day. Teachers have been working this week to assess where children are so that planned learning is matched closely to starting points and 'catch up' happens quickly. We have a very clear message that 'every second counts' and no learning time can be wasted. Of course, we are balancing this with supporting children's emotional well-being.

For new parents and existing parents, we are a good school with a strong reputation for school improvement over a sustained period of time. Staff are 100% committed to providing the best education for your children; you as parents are a partnership in this. We are working in circumstances that are new to us all and we have not been able to host many of the parents into school events which supported effective communication so well, so if you are unsure of anything, especially new parents, please do contact school and we will respond as soon as we can. Mrs Hewes is our parent liaison staff member and she is your first contact in most cases.

Thank you to all of you who have fed back positive comments to us, they are appreciated by all staff.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to Week 3!

