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Mrs Theresa Thornton
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Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you that we have now had some children in school displaying symptoms similar to that of COVID. I would like to make it clear that it is very normal for us to have children showing these symptoms at any point of the school year with the onset of colds etc. The pupils concerned have been sent home and asked to book a test. This is in line with national guidance issued by the Department for Education and the Local Authority.

There have been no positive cases in school to date. Therefore we will only write to you should any test come back positive. In the meantime, your child can continue attending school providing they, or no-one in your household, is displaying symptoms.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- high temperature
- 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)
- 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

If you, your child, a household member or a member of your support bubble develops any of these symptoms, you should notify the school immediately, and arrange a test by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by phoning 119. You must self-isolate if you have coronavirus symptoms or live in the same household as someone who does.

If your child has displayed symptoms and we have asked them not to attend school:

- You should isolate for 14 days, along with anyone who forms part of your support bubble. This can end for everyone, your child included, if the test result comes back negative.
- Where a child/ member of staff tests positive they must self-isolate for 10 days.
- Where a child/member of staff have been identified as a close contact to a positive case, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The contact's household/support bubble will not need to self-isolate unless the child/member of staff subsequently develops symptoms.

Where there is a positive case in the school, we will notify all those identified as close contacts of the positive result and the process moving forward. Every positive case in school is risk assessed and the appropriate action taken to safeguard pupils and staff.

All children and staff will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. To book a test, visit <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or phone 119. Please rest assured that if we have a positive test result in school and your child is affected, you will be notified immediately.





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In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the steps that we can all take to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

Coronavirus has not gone away, and following these simple measures remains as important as ever:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

The government has also made clear three simple actions we should all be following:

- Wash hands keep washing your hands regularly
- Cover face wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
- Make space stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

Keeping our schools safe relies on everyone staying safe outside school too. By adhering to the measures set out by government you are helping us reduce the spread of infection so we can continue to protect your children and our staff.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Theresa Thornton
Headteacher

