Wednesday 30th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

As you are all aware, last week we received notification that a pupil at our school had tested positive for COVID19. As a result of this pupils that have had direct contact with this pupil are now isolating for 14 days. This included pupils from the same class and pupils who had travelled in on the same transport. The decisions we made were all based on the guidance from the government and the local authority. All these decisions had to be passed by the local authority before we could phone parents and staff. I have since had a further meeting where the incident was reviewed and again all our decisions were endorsed. As a school we do not want to disrupt pupils and families by sending pupils and staff home. However, there are very clear guidelines and in fact laws that have now been introduced and we have to abide by these.

 Can I just remind everyone of the guidelines as I understand there has been some confusion amongst parents.

*‘Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.’*

Staff in school are being vigilant and are understandably concerned if pupils present with persistent coughs or a temperature. If your child presents in school with any of the three COVID19 symptoms then we will ask that they be collected from school as soon as possible.

***a high temperature*** *– this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*

***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*** *– this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*

However, can you all please remember that there are other seasonal bugs doing the rounds at the moment. It may not be that your child is displaying any symptoms of COVID19 but they may have a cold or flu bug which is making them unwell. If you receive a call asking that your child be collected because they are unwell this has been a joint decision which will have been checked with a member of the senior leadership team.

In addition, we have reviewed our policy concerning visitors / parents coming on to the school site and we request that you wear a face covering before you enter the school gates. This is in line with the request that transport staff wear face coverings at all times. Please remember this when dropping off or collecting your child.

As ever we are dealing with an ever-changing situation and we will endeavour to keep you all informed of any further changes we may have to implement.



Gail Lawton

Headteacher