

Dear Parents,

Please find updated information for your use.

It is vital that all children's absences and the symptoms of their illness are reported to the school office on the first day of illness, to ensure the right action is taken to keep our school community and your families safe. (Tel: 01207 234531)

If your child is ill with **any** of the following symptoms, you **MUST** request a coronavirus test (even if you think it is another type of illness) and keep your child at home, until the test result is returned:

- A high temperature;
- A new, continuous cough;
- Loss or change of sense of smell or taste.

School needs to be informed if a child is taking a test and of the test result, whether it is negative or positive.

How to book a test.

There are a variety of ways to book a test:

- Using a drive-in, walk-in or mobile test unit (this has the quickest test result return);
- By ordering a home-test kit.

There are different ways to order a home-test kit or book an appointment at a test site:

- Online at: <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>
- Phone 111 if symptoms worsen or go online to: <https://111.nhs.uk/COVID-19>
- Phone 119 for testing track and trace.

Returning home test kits.

You can return test kits by:

- Booking a courier online to pick up your home-test.
- Finding the nearest priority box at: <https://www.royalmail.com/services-near-you#/>

Waiting for the test result or/and a positive test result.

For individuals who are **symptomatic and/or test positive** for coronavirus please follow the latest NHS guidance, which can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

(Individuals with symptoms or/and a positive test result isolate for 10 days and the rest of the household isolate for 14 days.)

For guidance on responding to **coronavirus in children**, please follow the link at:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

What to do if another person, who you have been in close contact with, tests positive.

You should self-isolate for **14 days** since the last close contact with the affected person
Close contact is:

- **Direct close contact** –face-to-face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face-to-face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin);
- **Proximity contacts** -extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual;
- **Travelling in a small vehicle**, like a car, with an infected person.

If there were any positive cases in school, you would be informed immediately and public health would advise school which children and staff would need to self-isolate.

What do the different results mean?

Individuals **can end their isolation if there are no symptoms** and a **negative coronavirus result**.

However, if **further symptoms develop**, there will be a **need to isolate** and a further test may be appropriate. Please follow the advice from track and trace for this:
parents/carers to contact <https://111.nhs.uk/COVID>

How to help school?

- Inform school in the first day of any illness by speaking to the school office, clearly explaining the symptoms your child has.
- Following the advice above.
- Keeping school informed of any tests taking place and the result, whether negative or positive.
- If a child or your household has to self-isolate make sure we know the expected date of return to school for your child,
- When asked to self-isolate, follow this correctly for the correct time-scale.

How school can help you?

- If self-isolation has to take place, we will provide you with your child's work to home-school for the period of isolation.
- There are a few coronavirus testing kits in school – they can only be distributed if there are no tests available to be delivered to you by courier which is bookable online, at local testing sites or through the 111/119 helpline. All three must be tried and used if available.

Regards,
Mrs Burgess

