

Ladysmith Federation

Ladysmith Infant & Nursery School

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Dear Parents,

As you can imagine, we have had many calls from parents last week and this, about children who are unwell, asking if their child should be attending school, having a Covid test and which members of the family this affects. We must remember that at this time of year, we tend to have many children in school suffering from minor colds, alongside others who are poorly with 'flu-like symptoms.

The NHS website is the best place to go for information: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Below is a summary from the NHS website:

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- *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*
- *Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.*

Some children suffer with coughs on and off throughout the winter. Even so, if the cough is new and continuous, they should stay at home and have the test. Our current process, in line with advice is:

1. Pupil develops symptoms
2. Pupil does not return to school for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms
3. Follow guidance for households with possible infection: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home->

[guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection](#)

4. Get tested (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>) and inform school immediately upon receipt of result
5. If the test is negative the pupil can return to school when they have not displayed the symptoms for 48 hours
6. If the test is positive, school will follow the guidance of the local Health Protection Team to identify further actions required
7. If your child is a household member of someone with symptoms, they also need to stay at home until a test result is received. If it is negative and no-one else develops symptoms, then they can return to school. If the test result is positive, they will need to isolate for 14 days.

I know that each family has their own particular circumstances and that some children may be in school with a cough, if it is linked to a condition such as asthma. Be assured that we will check with parents if there are any doubts about whether a child should be in school. If your child is ill with a cold or 'flu virus we suggest you keep them at home until they are feeling better (unless they have one of the symptoms above, in which case please follow the instructions above) just as you usually would.

Hopefully the school community will stay well by acting together and keeping each other safe. Thank you for your cooperation.

Kind Regards,
Emma