

15/09/2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Attendance and Blended Learning

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.

The NHS lists the symptoms of COVID-19 as shown here. If your child does not have any of these symptoms you **do not** need to get tested. If your child has a normal cold, without any of the symptoms of COVID-19, they should attend school.

Please find attached the 'what to do if..' guidance that has been generated by Cornwall Council. This is to support you in knowing the best possible steps to take should you, your child or a family member feel unwell. Please note, if your child is unwell with non-COVID-19 symptoms you should continue to follow the school procedures as normal. We have been made aware that some people with symptoms are having difficulties accessing a test. We have received the following response from Steve Double MP.

I appreciate how frustrating this is and want to reassure you that the COVID testing team are working on scaling up availability of COVID testing locally as rapidly as possible.

We have been told by the COVID team that new appointments are released at 9am every day, and then multiple times throughout the day, as and when capacity is available. the recommendation is to keep trying online or, if the person seeking a test does not have access to the internet, by calling 119.

There is currently a mobile testing facility in St Austell, as well as at least two other testing sites around Cornwall (I believe one is in Bude and another was in Penzance, but I'm not sure if these have since moved). There are also other testing sites exclusively for patients awaiting inpatient treatment and sites for NHS workers. If the mobile testing sites within Cornwall are not displaying online this is unfortunately due to them not having any available appointments, but we recommend if you need a test to keep checking regularly or, if home testing kits are available, to order a home testing kit.

Unfortunately, same day demand for COVID testing is above supply in part due to a large number of people without symptoms getting tests – up to 25% of tests are being requested by those without symptoms. The online booking system is done on a trust basis, so that those seeking a test do not face unnecessary

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barriers, but it does seem that there are a significant number seeking testing needlessly which is taking resource away from those who desperately need it. They are working to scale up supply but demand is climbing faster than they can upscale supply.

If you are waiting for a test

If your child is waiting for the results of a COVID-test or is isolating due to receiving positive COVID test results, it is essential that, if they are well enough, they continue their learning at home. Although we are aware that local testing has been difficult to access, the period of time that a child is absent from school whilst waiting for a test result should be minimal. **In the first 24 hours of your child's absence, in order to ensure their learning continues:**

Pupils should

- Continue reading their home-school reading book
- Continue practising their weekly spelling list
- Practise their Times Tables
- Access the [online learning platforms](#) available (Read, Write, Inc., TT Rockstars, Spelling Shed and more)
- Complete the '[Home Learning Ideas](#)' for their year group Imaginative Learning Project (ILP)

If your child is required to remain at home and is well enough to do so, it is important that they engage with the 'blended learning' offer in place. This ensures pupils follow the curriculum as closely as possible from home so that when they return to school, minimal learning has been lost. **If your child's absence extends beyond a 24-hour period, in order to ensure their learning continues:**

Pupils should

- Log on to eSchools daily and access the Oak Academy virtual lessons sent by their teacher
- Complete all written work in their Maths Book, English Book and Gold Book
- Keep in touch with their class teacher via eSchools each day; uploading work where necessary
- Read the Whole Class Reading text daily
- Continue practising spelling and times tables (as above)
- Continue to complete the 'Home Learning Ideas' for their ILP (as above)

Please see attached 'Blended Learning' guide for further information.

Yours sincerely

Claire Bunting
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