



Hadleigh Infants and Nursery School Academy

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Tuesday 15th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

During the past week, we have seen a large number of children in the school develop symptoms linked to COVID-19. I fully expected this as I am sure many of you did too as these symptoms are also associated to many other common illnesses. When children return to school in September and as Autumn and Winter arrive schools are always faced with many colds and bugs. The difficulty we are faced with at the moment is that the symptoms of standard illnesses are crossing over into the list of Symptoms with COVID-19. As head teacher, the safety of children, staff and parents is always my highest priority. With this in mind, anyone with one or more of the following symptoms will be asked to self-isolate -

- 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.

This self-isolation will last at least 10 days or until a negative COVID-19 test result has been obtained. I am pleased to state that we have had no positive cases in school as of the time of me writing this letter.

Many of you would have received a letter during the past 7 days stating that a member of your child's bubble has started to display at least one of the symptoms stated above. Considering the number of potential cases we are likely to experience and my desire to keep parents as informed about the situation as possible, I have decided on the following procedure. I will provide daily updates on the school's website linked to the number of isolations we have in school. Using the link to the page below you will be able to stay updated with the current situation in your child's class.

<https://www.hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk/web/covid-19 - weekly isolation information>

A table will provide parents with the number of members within each bubble isolating as well as the number of negative results that have been returned. Letters informing parents of potential cases will only be sent out if the number of potential cases had previously reduced to zero within the bubble. I will not send out individual letters with regards to the outcomes of tests that individuals have completed; however, this information will be presented daily on the website. I have decided that this will be the best way to share information as without these changes parents could receive multiple letters at once resulting in potential confusion.

I have also designed two additional sections on the school's website to provide parents with as much information as I can. A link to these pages can be found below -

Information linked to COVID-19 Symptoms and Testing -

https://www.hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk/web/information_linked_to_covid-19_symptoms_and_testing

This page has information linked to the symptoms of COVID-19 and a link to the COVID-19 symptom checker. If parents are unsure if they should send their child into school, I would recommend using the symptoms checker. This checker will ask a set of questions and will suggest steps you need to take. The page also explains who is eligible for a test, when to get a test, how to book a test and what the test involves. There is a link on this page which will take you directly to the online booking site. At the bottom of the page, I have provided a link to the current dates and locations for mobile testing units. The site with this information is updated every Friday.

COVID-19 Advice for Parents -

https://www.hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk/web/covid-19_advice_for_parents

This page has links to a range of Government advice documents linked to COVID-19. Downloadable stories for children linked to COVID-19 can also be found on this page. At the bottom of the page you will find a frequently asked questions section. For each question, I have provided an answer. As we continue through the year I will continue to add to this section.

I would like to thank parents for their understanding at this time. As a school, we are trying to ensure that we are providing the safest environment we can - without your continued support this would not be able to happen. I hope that you find the additional information helpful and would like to remind parents that we are available to help with any questions they may have. Finally, I would like to acknowledge how difficult it has been for some of our parents to get tested quickly to ensure that the children can return to school without too much disruption. I will be writing to Rebecca Harris MP to explain the difficulties some of our families have experienced and request that she holds the government to account to ensure that this is improved moving forward. I will publish this letter by the end of the week.

Yours sincerely

Mr. S. Proctor