



15 September 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of our fantastic parents, who have helped pupils settle brilliantly back into school over the past few days; we have certainly loved having everybody back together - well together but in our own bubbles! Despite the great start, we are less than two weeks into term and already the inevitable start of the Autumn/Winter illness season is upon us. It seems that the time we have spent away from each other in society, along with the over-sanitised environment we now inhabit, has brought on a sudden outbreak of colds.

In line with our [Covid Risk Assessment](#) we are asking that anyone who is unwell does not attend the site at the moment. Our immune systems all need time to rest to make sure that we all stay well. Although, we would normally encourage anyone who is only very mildly unwell into school, perhaps with the help of some Calpol to get through the day, at the moment it is advisable to remain at home and recover fully. Giving pupils Calpol, or other paracetamol based medicines, can reduce their temperature and mask symptoms of Covid-19 so we are asking you to remain vigilant to help the whole community stay safe. This also gives parents time to fully assess your child's symptoms, which is particularly difficult when some Covid-19 symptoms are also common in other illnesses.

A reminder that if you, or any member of your household have any of the following symptoms, the whole household must isolate and request a test for the person showing 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

Further advice is available on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

If any of these symptoms are noticed in school, we will ask you to collect your child and any siblings as soon as possible to arrange a test. I appreciate that this can cause disruption to you and the wider family, something that is being made even more frustrating due to the difficulties that people are facing trying to get a test. Remember that we are all affected by this - the staff also have family members and are being asked to follow these guidelines as well. If we recommend a test for your child, we are not trying to be difficult or cause any unnecessary disruption for you, we are simply trying to do our best to keep everyone safe. You only have to look on Social Media to know that this issue around testing is causing problems for schools across Gloucestershire as well as nationally.



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If your child has recently recovered from a cold or other typical Autumn/Winter illness and is well enough to come back into school, we ask that you do share this information and the full range of symptoms your child displayed so that we can distinguish between common seasonal illnesses and Covid-19. We aim to make fully informed decisions, however, if there is any doubt, and your child or a member of your household has displayed any of the main symptoms, we do have to recommend testing.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It is likely that this term is going to bring about many challenges, but together we can overcome them.

Best wishes

Mrs Bradley-McKay
Headteacher

