5th October 2022

Dear parents and carers

**Update from Public Health England**

We have recently received some updated guidance from Public Health Guidance that I would like to share with you.

This guidance centres on infection prevention and control, particularly as we move into the winter months. I would be grateful if you could take the time to read the information outlined in this letter and please save this letter for your reference should you need it.

Public Health England guidance states that ‘prompt exclusion of children, young people and staff who are unwell with an infectious disease is essential to preventing the spread of infection in an education and childhood settings’. If you are in any doubt, this poster is a handy way to check – click [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1070910/UKHSA-should-I-keep-my_child_off_school_guidance-A3-poster.pdf) to view it.

General coughs and colds

Children with mild, respiratory symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting. Should your child become ill at school, our First Aid team will contact you.

In most cases, parents and caregivers will agree that a child who is unwell and has symptoms of an infectious illness, such as a fever, should not attend school, given the potential risk to others. In circumstances where our First Aid team suspect a case of an infectious illness, we may make the decision to ask you to keep your child at home as it is necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection.

Covid 19 Guidance

The government now recommends that children and young people are only tested for Covid-19 if directed to do so by a health professional. However, if a child does test and is positive, they're advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **3 days** after testing and for adults they are advised to stay at home for **5 days**. This guidance may change but is available [here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fguidance%2Fpeople-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19%23what-to-do-if-you-have-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19-and-have-not-taken-a-covid-19-test&data=05%7C01%7CMartha.Keats%40devon.gov.uk%7C16d4af86a06b4ace0b7808da9fd69ca9%7C8da13783cb68443fbb4b997f77fd5bfb%7C0%7C0%7C637998044237827680%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JFYx4lgvRUuWzqLD5y9e5k6C80M3pQ13nz6lSGuIr5w%3D&reserved=0).

Report an absence

Should your child become ill please report their absence to our absence line on 01884 256655, option 1 stating in your message the child’s name, and reason for absence. If the absence is for more than one day, please report to the absence line on each day of their absence.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards



Sammy Crook
Head