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Grow Together Shine Forever

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Dear Parent/Carers,

COVID testing

I am sure that you will have been well aware of coverage in the press about issues regarding availability of COVID tests and that I know parents here who have requested tests have had delays and/or long journeys to be tested. As a school, we do really appreciate how parents have been following government guidance and getting their child tested if they are showing one or more symptoms of COVID19.

With the issues in testing capacity, then you only need to get your child tested if they show any of the three key symptoms of COVID19. A cold, runny nose or sore throat would not require a test. You should keep your child off school if they are suffering with a bad cold until they are better; however with a mild cold they can be at school. One of the main symptoms in children to look out for is a temperature so please check this. If a child has a high temperature (more than 37.8oC) then they should not be in school and you should contact your GP or NHS 111 for advice and book a test. If in doubt, then check with us and also contact your GP/NHS 111 as they are the trained medical professionals and can best guide you.

Contingency Planning....

As the winter approaches and COVID19 cases (especially in adults) are likely to increase locally and nationally, then we need to be ready to manage this as a school. Should there be a positive COVID19 case in school (either child or adult) we will immediately contact our local Public Health team (Bucks) for advice as per the Government guidance. This may result in a class bubble or wider bubbles being asked to self-isolate for 14 days. If this happens, then within 24-48 hours we will have our home learning model back up and running on the school website for your child to follow at home and with video links and on line materials. We are hoping we can keep running as normal for as long as possible.

The other scenario we have to consider is if we have too many staff off work due to being contacted by NHS Test and Trace and/or who have members of their household with symptoms and so need to self-isolate. We do have contingency plans to cover up to a point; however we may need to look at some remote learning if we cannot cover children and bubbles safely. This would be a last resort; however has already been the case in some schools locally and nationally.

We are hopeful that the Government will prioritise teachers and school staff to get access to tests as we cannot afford a teacher out of school unnecessarily, should they not actually have COVID19.

I feel the next few weeks/months are going to keep us on our toes and thank you in advance for your support. As it stands at the moment, school is operating well and near normal and we very much aim to keep it that way as long as we safely can.

Reminder whole school flu vaccinations...

The whole school flu vaccinations carried out by the School Nursing Team are in the diary dates as Wednesday 2nd December. More information will come out on this nearer the time.

Kind regards

Sara Boyce

Headteacher

