

27 November 2020



Dear parent/carer

We very much look forward to welcoming the whole school back on Monday. Please can you make sure that your son or daughter knows that we will be on Week A of the timetable, in case they have lost track. There has been a thorough and deep clean of the school and we are ready to go.

We hope very much to be operating in a 'business as usual' way for the last three weeks, until the Christmas break. Unfortunately, as you will be aware, we are now in a Tier 3 part of the country where the number of cases of Covid-19 is still very much a cause for concern. I am not, therefore, able to guarantee that we will not have any more cases or that we will not be in the position of asking individual students, or indeed whole year groups, to self-isolate again. There are, however, things we can all do to help and I would appreciate it if you could discuss this with your son or daughter before Monday:

- everyone must follow the rules – particularly in school;
- all students who come to school via public transport must wear masks whilst doing so;
- students who are unwell, or showing any symptoms, must stay at home. We do understand that this can be inconvenient for working parents, particularly if the symptoms seem very mild, but this must be preferable to whole year groups or the whole school being sent home.

The Government has now widened the symptoms that we should look for. This is particularly important for young people, who are not typically showing symptoms in quite the same way as adults. The well-known symptoms of a new continuous cough, temperature, loss of taste or smell remain, but also now considered to be potential symptoms are:

- diarrhoea;
- nausea;
- vomiting;
- extreme tiredness;
- headaches;
- joint pain;
- muscle ache;
- runny nose and/or sneezing;
- sore throat;
- altered consciousness;
- seizures.

In essence, if your child is in any way unwell please do not send them to school and, with the onset of any of these symptoms, please seek a test before a return to school (this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119). Please also remember that other family members in the same household should then self-isolate until the result of this test is known. Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Finally, I do hope the students have kept up with their studies and have been watching the pre-recorded lessons. If you know that your son or daughter has got a little behind, please do encourage them to use this weekend to catch up.

Yours faithfully

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