

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Thursday September 17 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been advised that we are seeing seasonal colds and respiratory illness earlier than normal this year. This means that there are more of these illnesses circulating at the moment, and it is therefore important to recognise the difference between these and COVID-19.

Children with symptoms of the common cold, including runny noses and sore throats, can continue to attend school so long as they are well enough to do so. Please be aware that we are unable to advise on whether a child should be in attendance or not as parents are best placed to make the decision on whether their child is fit for school in the morning.

Please follow the government guidelines and if your child is displaying any of the COVID symptoms they remain home until a negative test result can be obtained or until 10 days from the onset of symptoms. The government guidelines for parents/carers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>.

Any siblings and other household members must also remain at home as per the guidance for household isolation which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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.

Please also see attached a flowchart to help you understand the steps that you should take.

If your child does attend school and a member of staff feels your child has any of the above symptoms, you will be asked to collect your child/children immediately.

We are, unfortunately, unable to allow symptomatic children back into school until a negative test result has been received or until they have isolated for 10 days since the onset of symptoms.

All schools and colleges in Bedford Borough have been asked to issue this letter and the flow charts to parents/carers.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal

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