

Christleton Primary School

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Monday 5th October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

We understand that the last few months have been challenging, particularly for parents and carers but now we have returned fully to school we wanted to provide some further advice where a child or young person in your care presents with symptoms of the common cold or similar bugs during this pandemic.

During the autumn term and following the return after a prolonged break, it is common for colds and similar infections to circulate. In many cases, children will be well enough to attend school and continue their learning with little or no interruption to their education. In other cases, for instance where they have quite a heavy cold, they may need to take a day or two off to recover.

This is not the case for children and young people with potential COVID-19 symptoms, they are required to self-isolate and seek a test through <u>https://self-referral.test-for-</u> coronavirus.service.gov.uk or by calling <u>119</u>.

In order to ensure your children do not miss out on their education, it is important to be clear about how COVID-19 symptoms differ from those of other infections that we normally see circulating at this time of year.

COVID-19 symptoms

It is important that all of us, including those who make up the community around a school, are vigilant for the symptoms of COVID-19 and understand what actions we should take if someone develops them, either at school or at home.

As you will be aware the main symptoms to be aware of are:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

If a young person or a child in your care **develops** <u>ANY</u> of the above symptoms, they should selfisolate and you should book them a test as soon as possible.

It is essential that people who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who share a household with someone who has symptoms, do not attend school and must self-isolate along with all members of their household.

If the test is negative, self-isolation can end for everyone and your child can return to school when well enough to do so.





If the test is positive, then your child must self-isolate immediately. This self-isolation should continue for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started. Anyone your child lives with, and anyone in your child's support bubble, must also self-isolate for 14 days from when your child started their self-isolation. When the school is informed of a positive test it will act quickly and decisively. We will identify those who were in close contact with the positive case and inform them of the need to self-isolate.

Cold-like symptoms

If, however, your child **DOES NOT** have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they and you do not need to self-isolate. Your child can go to school if fit to do so.

We do appreciate the huge effort being made by parents, carers and the school staff to ensure the risk of COVID-19 is minimised and to support children's education.



Thank you for your continued support, understanding and vigilance.

Kind regards,

Mr Mitchell



