



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Monday 7th September 2020

Dear Parents,

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH SUSPECTED CASES OF COVID-19

It is a real pleasure to see the children back in school and I am grateful to everyone involved in making sure our protective measures are implemented as smoothly as possible. Whilst the school is working hard to reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19 as much as we are able, there is still the risk that a case may occur within our school community. I thought it would be useful to share with you what our procedure will be if a suspected or confirmed case does arise so as you can be aware of what to expect in terms of communication. Please note that we cannot share the names or personal details of any individuals due to confidentiality and data protection reasons and I am sure that all members of the school community will understand the need to respect the privacy of those involved at what could be a potentially difficult time.

When identifying whether someone has suspected symptoms, we do have to be cautious and, as we are not healthcare professionals, we do ask for your patience and your understanding that we have to follow the correct procedures, no matter how mild the symptoms. We are also aware that we are coming up to winter when colds and other childhood ailments can be prevalent and so the information below applies to individuals exhibiting at least one of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 as outlined on the NHS website: ***a new and persistent cough AND/OR a high temperature AND/OR the loss of taste or smell.*** PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD IN TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE UNWELL IN ANY WAY, EVEN IF UNRELATED TO COVID-19.

Identification of suspected symptoms in an individual

- The child or staff member will be taken to a withdrawal area to wait to be collected and taken home.
- Any siblings will also need to be collected and the family will need to self-isolate in line with government guidance and will be expected to seek a test.
- Guidance states that members of the school community will not normally be notified at this point unless the individual tests positive.
- Whilst test results are pending, all classes will remain open until further notice.

Test results are negative

- The individual may return to school so long as no new symptoms have occurred.
- Any parents who have been contacted as 'close contacts' will also be notified.

Test results are positive

- The individual and their family must continue to self-isolate in line with government guidance.
- School will liaise with local health protection teams and will share pupil contact details of any relevant pupils if requested.
- School will notify the school community of a confirmed case.
- Parents of children identified as a 'close contact' will be notified and these children will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. For the majority of cases, this will involve closing a year group 'bubble' or possibly an 'expanded bubble'. Wider family members of 'close contacts' will not be expected to isolate unless symptoms develop.
- Close contacts are not normally expected to seek testing unless symptoms develop.
- School will provide further information about how pupils who are self-isolating can access home learning.

Should school become aware of multiple cases, it may be necessary to close the whole school following advice from Public Health England. Should this be necessary, all parents will be informed and school will close for 14 days. As I am sure you can appreciate, it is imperative that everyone adheres to our protective measures so as we limit any further disruption to the children's learning. We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support and do encourage anyone with questions or queries to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs A Harvey
Headteacher