



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Thursday 8th October 2020

Dear Parents,

This has already been a busy but thoroughly enjoyable half term so far. We have quickly adapted to our new routines and the children have engaged so brilliantly with all that we have done in school in our classes. I always look forward to my 'Zoom' Collective Worship sessions during the week where we can get together as a whole school, albeit on a screen!

Notification letters to close contacts

As mentioned in previous letters, school has been advised to notify the parents of 'close contacts' when a child is seeking testing due to a possible symptom of coronavirus. This is purely precautionary and may well increase in frequency as the winter season comes upon us. The letter is simply to allow you to remain vigilant and to look out for any possible symptoms yourselves.

Unless in very specific cases, the letters you receive will not indicate which 'bubble' the close contact refers to. This is because we have to ensure the privacy of those involved. If you have more than one child and are unsure which child the letter refers to, our recommendation would be that you monitor both children closely for any possible symptoms.

Similarly, there may be occasions when more than one individual from a 'bubble' is awaiting test results. In this case, we will send our initial notification letter when the first member of the bubble seeks testing but, in most cases, will not send additional letters should another child be off during the waiting period. We will then wait until all pending results are back before sending out a follow up letter notifying parents of the outcome. As a result, if you do not receive a follow up letter within the normal 48-72-hour period, it may be that we are waiting to be informed of additional results. Of course, should a test result in a positive outcome, we will notify parents immediately.

Test results

If you do need to seek testing for your child due to the presence of one or more of the 3 key coronavirus symptoms, please ensure school is kept informed. Please also ensure that you notify us of the results of the testing as soon as you are able so as we can act accordingly. If results are returned during the weekend, please use the school email address to inform us as we will be monitoring the email if we are expecting test result notifications from parents.

Mud!

The poorer weather seems to be upon us and, unfortunately, our school field is becoming increasingly muddy in places. We are aware that the children are spending much of their day in more formal arrangements within the classroom and so it is incredibly important that they get the opportunity to socialise and play together during breaktimes. Due to the 'bubble' arrangements, our school playground is too small for multiple bubbles to avoid mixing and so we are reliant on the use of the school field. We are aware that some of the children are coming home looking rather muddy and we do apologise for the inconvenience with this. We have asked the children to be careful when playing outside and we do advise that children come prepared for conditions where possible. A reminder that children can leave wellies in school to help with this.

Medication in schools

You may remember from last year's newsletters that there is detailed guidance relating to the administration of medication in schools. Our preference is that we do not hold medication in school or administer this unless it is unavoidable but we do recognise that there are times when children will need to be given medication within school hours. We are only able to administer prescription medication which is provided to us in the original packaging and with the prescription labels attached. There is also paperwork that will need to be completed in full before we are able to have any medication in school. It is worth noting that many antibiotics can be provided in 3 daily doses rather than 4 which can fit around the school day more easily without the need for it to be administered in school.

Remote Learning

You will be receiving a letter and login information relating to Google Classroom which will be used should we need to provide remote learning opportunities at home. There is now also a Remote Learning section in the pupils area of the website where any letters, policies or documents will be available.

Half term

School is due to close for the half term holiday on Friday 23rd October at the usual time. We are then due to reopen for the second half of the Autumn term on Monday 2nd November 2020.

As always, thank you for your support and for continuing to follow our different routines and ways of working. We will continue to keep you updated with changes to guidance as the term unfolds and look forward to lots of new activities within our classes.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey