



Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 3351 LMA

04 January 2023

Dear Parent,

Start of Term - Burscough Priory Academy

Happy New Year from everyone here at Burscough Priory Academy. We wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy 2023.

As a reminder, school reopens on Thursday 5 January at 8.45am for all students. If your child uses the train, please check the schedules - there are some strikes planned which could have an impact on their travel to and from school. In many cases, alternative arrangements will need to be made.

Ongoing childhood illnesses update

Attendance at school and lessons continues to be the one of the key factors in how well a student achieves and it is essential that we avoid any unnecessary absences. However, with so many seasonal illnesses prevalent in the community, it is the case that there may be a time when a child is simply too unwell to attend school, or they are placing others at risk of infection if they do.

With this in mind, we have received correspondence from the UK Health Security Agency, via the Department for Education about the current levels of seasonal illness and the steps that we can all take to reduce the spread. Here is the summary:

'Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.:

- **Routine handwashing.** Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.
- **High Temperature or Fever.** It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a



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fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

- **Positive Covid test.** If your child has symptoms that lead you to test for Covid and they test positive, they should stay at home for 3 days following the positive test and only return if they do not have a high temperature and they are well enough to participate
- **Get a Flu Vaccination.** Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and, in some cases, can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late. Eligible children include:
 1. Those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
 2. All primary school-aged children
 3. Some secondary school-aged children.

Thank you for all of your support on all matters uniform, attendance and with the health protection measures noted. We look forward to a focused and productive start to the new term as we move into the brighter months of Spring.

Yours faithfully,

L MacLaren

Mrs MacLaren
Headteacher