Tuesday 8th September, 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

This letter sets out what we will do in the event that we have a suspected or confirmed outbreak of Covid in the school.

**Suspected or Confirmed Cases of Covid Infection**

* ***Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus, or who has tested positive in the last seven days, must not enter the school grounds.***
* Parents should not bring their children to school if they show symptoms of Covid-19 and/or believe they have been exposed to coronavirus.
* The school will not take the temperature of pupils on arrival.
* If a child develops symptoms of Covid-19 during the school day we will immediately isolate the child (and continue to supervise and monitor them), the parents will be informed of the situation as soon as possible and the child will go home as soon as possible.
* Parents are asked and encouraged to engage with the NHS Test and Trace programme, meaning they need to be ready and willing to:
* Book a test if they (or their child) display symptoms.
* Provide details of anyone they (or their child) have been in close contact with
* Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or someone who tests positive.
* Parents of pupils who display coronavirus symptoms are encouraged to get their child tested (anyone showing symptoms is now able to book a test).
* Parents are asked to inform the school immediately of test results.
* If an individual tests negative, they feel well and no longer have coronavirus symptoms, they, and the members of their household, can stop self-isolating
* If an individual tests positive, they are required to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms. They can then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. Other members of their household are required to continue self-isolating for the full 14-day period.
* Where an individual in the school community tests positive for coronavirus, the Principal contacts the local Health Protection Team (HPT) immediately.
* The school works with the local HPT to manage the response.
* Individuals at school who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive are sent home immediately. Close contact is defined as follows:
* Direct close contacts – face-to-face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within one metre, including being coughed on, a face-to-face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin).
* Proximity contacts – extended close contact (within one to two metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual.
* Travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person
* If required, all parents will be informed of a confirmed case in school; however, the name of the individual will not be shared.
* The school does not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting individuals back to school after completing a full period of self-isolation.
* If the school has two or more confirmed cases of coronavirus within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus is suspected, then the school will liaise with the local HPT to advise on additional actions.

This is an uncertain time for us all. We will continue to seek advice and follow all the guidelines we are given. If you are in doubt, please ring and explain the situation – we will work with you to make sure we all do the right thing.

Of course, your child may just be ‘ordinary’ ill – a cold or a sickness bug. Please contact Mrs Hepworth in the school office and keep her informed.

We know that it is as difficult for you as it is for us and we appreciate your co-operation and understanding.

Take care and keep safe,

Mr E.R. Chamberlain,

Principal.

