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22 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We understand and empathise with the difficulties that are caused when we tell you that your child needs to go home because they are displaying Covid19 symptoms, but please remember that this guidance comes from the current Department for Education advice, rather than specifically from us.

**Anyone displaying Covid19 symptoms:**

- a high temperature (37.8C or above)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**must not remain at school and will need to isolate for 10 days, or until a negative test result is received. Members of the same household must also self-isolate for 14 days, or until the negative test result is received.**

Again, we understand the frustrations that are caused when tests are difficult to obtain and/or if the child's symptoms improve during that 10 day period, **but it is essential that the guidance is followed and the child isolates at home for the required period.**

We have asked for further clarification of these guidelines and have given feedback from parents in relation to the concerns you have raised in relation to this process but at the moment, there has been no further update. **We have received no school specific instructions or any further guidance for asthma sufferers.**

**This guidance applies to both pupils and staff at school.** Some staff members are having to isolate either because they are displaying symptoms themselves, or because their child is, and is therefore unable to attend their own school.

Our arrangements for remote learning continue behind the scenes and we hope to be able to update you further, later this week. At the moment we are using a combination of emailed learning packs or physical hard copies. Moving forward we hope for work to be shared via Microsoft OneDrive.

For those of you having to work at home whilst your child is not at school, again we understand the difficulties you face in terms of having enough devices/internet access and also having to juggle your own work commitments with supporting your child with their own learning. It certainly isn't easy.

We await delivery of more CGP work books and once received, these, in combination with some guidance for use, will be made available as necessary.

As a reminder, if your child has any of the Covid19 symptoms referenced earlier, you must keep them off school and either order a home test or book an appointment at a drive through test site. **You must get the test within the first 5 days of having symptoms.**

You can book a test via: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> . If you cannot access the internet, a test can be arranged by phoning 119. I know personally how hard it is to access a test and we are feeding this back to the Department for Education via the Local Authority.

These are genuinely unprecedented times in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. Our intention is to continue supporting you and working with you whilst we all, individually and collectively, follow the guidance despite it changing frequently. As always, our primary aim is for school to remain open, no matter what. Based on media reports, it seems that everyone following the guidance will be even more important over the next few weeks - we thank you for the part you will play in that.

We know how hard it for us all to be juggling so many balls whilst trying to keep abreast of ever-changing guidance. As always, we will get through this together!

Stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Lisa Telling

Executive Headteacher  
The Kennet Federation