

Head Teacher: Mr L Spencer
Deputy Head: Mr J Moore

Dear Parent/Carers

23 September 2020

At the end of last week, school received an update regarding Coronavirus. There has been some confusion regarding the coughing symptom. In line with the NHS guidance, the Covid cough is described as **'a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than one hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.'**

We are aware that at this time of year, coughs and sneezes are prevalent within the community and we understand the difficulty in distinguishing between a 'normal' cough and a Covid cough.

NHS also state that Covid symptoms include **fever (temperature of 37.8 or higher)** and/or **loss of or change in the normal sense of taste or smell.**

If you believe your child is suffering from a 'normal winter cold' then they can attend school. If they are not well enough to attend then they can come back as soon as they are well enough.

If you believe your child is suffering from Coronavirus, you must arrange a test (Visit www.nhs.uk or ring 119).

- If your child(ren) has symptoms then they should stay at home and arrange for a test and **cannot return until a negative test result has been received. You should only book a test if your child starts displaying symptoms.**
- If someone in the household is displaying symptoms, do not send your child to school (even if the child is not displaying any symptoms). **Your child can only return once a negative test result for the person displaying symptoms has been received.**
- If someone in a household tests positive for Coronavirus then please contact school and the household must follow Government Guidance regarding isolating.

How to inform school of a Coronavirus test result

- Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday (term time) ring through to the school office
- Out of school hours – evenings and weekends we ask that you email the test result through to our new email address **covidresultstmarys@smat.org.uk**. This will be monitored periodically on an evening and at the weekend. **Please do not use our normal email addresses to report test results.**

Following a positive test result, school will always take advice from the Department for Education to see the next steps and this may result in the closure of a year group (bubble) with immediate effect. If the decision is made to close a bubble when children are not in school a text message will be sent to tell you of the decision. If the children are in school when the decision is made then a text message will be sent to come and collect your child. Siblings should remain in school unless they/household member start to display symptoms.

We thank you once again for your understanding and cooperation in these difficult circumstances. Our priority at this time to ensure the safety of all pupils, families and staff whilst still offering a high-quality education.

Mr L Spencer

Mr J Moore