



Bryn Offa Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr P Thompson

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Starting back to school this year I was really not sure what to expect on the first day, but I was absolutely delighted. We had 100% attendance and the response to the new measures from the children and parents has been superb.

Now we have all navigated the start back to school, the next thing to tackle are the systems and procedures around illness and suspected Covid cases in school. As you would expect, we have little to no discretion with the systems as they are all provided by government or local authority. In addition to the weekly newsletter you should also receive a copy by email of the guidance we have to work to, which is called 'Managing Covid-19 in Shropshire Schools (Covid-19 Resource Pack for Schools).

This document details all the procedures we need to follow if any of the children exhibit any of the three main Covid symptoms (temperature, cough or loss of smell or taste) and then the procedures we need to follow when a child receives a positive or negative test. It also details the procedures for what to do if a family member has had contact with a positive case etc. The document is nearly 40 pages long, but I would urge you to find time to read it all.

One of the things of note in the document, is that it defines a high temperature as when the child feels hot to the touch on their chest or back. This document does not need us to record a temperature of 37.8 degrees as previous guidance has done, and parents should use the same criteria when deciding if a child has a temperature. Please do not feel it is ok to send a child in just because their temperature is under the 37.8 figure. It is essential you phone us if your child is unwell and explain to Miss Morris all the symptoms the children is showing.

If a child is sent home unwell with symptoms not in the list of three Covid symptoms they will need to be kept off until they are well and must not return earlier than 48 hours after any sickness or diarrhoea. The new guidance has added a high temperature into this as well, so if a child has a high temperature but a negative test result, they still have to be away from school for a minimum of 48 hours after having a high temperature.

If children do show any of the Covid symptoms they have to be isolated in a room with a member of staff with gloves, mask and eye protection. This is not especially nice for the children so it is really important parents ensure we always have a contact number for that day and parents could get back to school quickly.

If your child does get sent home with any of the Covid symptoms, you will need arrange a test for them and share the result with us. If the test is negative the child can return immediately, as long as it has been at least 48 hours with no sickness, diarrhoea or high temperature. If the test result is positive, you must inform us as soon as possible. Section 4 of the guidance details what we have to do in the event of a confirmed case. If there are multiple cases it is regarded as an outbreak and this is dealt with in Section 5.

As you will see from just Section 4 and 5 of the guidance, there is the possibility of groups, whole classes or the whole school having to self-isolate for 14 days, during which time they will revert back to online learning. We really hope this will not happen, but if it does we need to move very quickly so the children have as little disruption to their education as possible.

I hope you find this information and the document attached useful but if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Thompson
Headteacher