

14th September 2020

Dear Parent

As we settle back into school after the prolonged closure, I write to ask for your help in keeping our students, staff and their families safe from Covid 19.

First, a local high school has some students who have tested positive for the virus. It is important to note that none of these students displayed the “classic” symptoms of a temperature and continuous cough; instead, they had **headaches** and/or **sore throats**. These are, apparently, additional symptoms of the virus, particularly in teenagers, though none of the Public Health England guidance makes this clear. Of course, teenagers can have headaches and sore throats without having the Covid 19 virus, but it is better to err on the side of caution and share this information with you.

Secondly, I want to stress once again that we are following very clear Public Health England guidance on self-isolation. This means that if a child is sent home with Covid symptoms, you are strongly advised to get a test. The child should NOT return to school until they have had a negative test **and** have been symptom free for 48 hours. Please do not send your child back into school **unless they have had a negative test** or after 10 days. Other members of the household, including siblings, should also self-isolate until the test result is known and negative.

Please note that these are national guidelines and all staff have been instructed to follow them. We realise that this may mean some inconvenience for you but it is important that we all act together to protect our whole community. Please do NOT send your child back into school if they have been sent home with Covid symptoms – we are trying to avoid a wide spread of infection across and beyond the school.

Finally, it will also help to keep all of us safe if our students follow the new “Rule of 6”. There have been reports locally of large gatherings of teenagers, not social distancing in any way. The virus spreads rapidly in these situations and will be brought back into school or back into your family home if care is not taken to follow Government guidelines.

We want to avoid a situation where we have to close the school to a year group or even close the whole school. Please help us to achieve this aim by acting upon the advice in this letter and in the previously circulated leaflet “A quick guide for parents/carers”.

Yours sincerely

MRS J GARRETTS
Headteacher

