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Headteacher: Miss Zoe Loosemore

23rd June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued efforts in supporting us in our COVID 19 journey and, as we move through the 2nd half of the summer term we are sharing a reminder of the Government guidance and **an update we have just received from Public Health England.**

To help keep everyone safe it is really important that if your child is ill with COVID 19 related symptoms, that they stay at home and, as a family, you follow the protocols set out.

What should I do if my child is ill at home?

Your child must not come into school if:

- they are displaying any of the COVID 19 symptoms (new continuous cough, high temperature, or loss of taste/smell)
- a member of their household (someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or a positive test result
- they are required to guarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test result. They must immediately cease to attend and continue to stay at home for at least 10 days, following on from the day after:
 - the start of their symptoms
 - the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test

We all need to follow this process and we will ensure everyone onsite or visiting is also doing the same. If your child has <u>any</u> of the symptoms related to COVID-19 you will need to follow the guidance regarding immediate isolation:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

and the booking of a <u>PCR</u> test - <u>www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test</u> The use of a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) is not adequate.

We ask you to follow usual procedures of advising us in any changes regarding your child's health and please contact the school office as soon as possible or at the latest by 9.15am to inform us of an absence by using the School website link:

https://www.hiltingbury-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Reporting+your+child%27s+absence&pid=128

It is really important that we are kept up to date and informed as soon as possible with any school absences so that we are able to ensure the safety of all children, staff and parents.

Should you wish to contact the school over the weekend / evening with a positive test outcome, please text or telephone the school mobile on: 07716 941590. We will be able to help you in all of these circumstances should you need any support.











What if my child is ill with a non-covid related illness?

Please follow the normal school guidance, if your child is ill, let the school know as soon as possible, before 9.15am, using the School website link:

https://www.hiltingbury-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Reporting+your+child%27s+absence&pid=128

What will the school do if my child becomes ill at school?

In school we have a designated space should a child become unwell with COVID symptoms. We will notify you if any symptoms arise and ask you to collect your child immediately. The guidance states that your child must be sent home as soon as possible to begin isolation and the isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days.

The advice is to then follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

You must book a PCR test as soon as possible - www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Other members of your household (including any siblings and members of their support or childcare bubble if they have one) should self-isolate. Their isolation period includes the day symptoms started for the first person in their household, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, and the next 10 full days. If a member of the household starts to display symptoms while self- isolating they will need to restart the 10 day isolation period and book a test. If anyone tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms.

If the PCR test returns negative, your child can return to school and all contacts can come out of isolation. Please inform the School of your results via email to adminoffice@hiltingbury-jun.hants.sch.uk

What if my child has been in close contact with someone who tests positive?

In the event that your child needs to isolate, because someone in their bubble group has a positive result, we will contact you directly.

The school will also contact our local Public Health England protection team in response to any confirmed cases of COVID19 that result in close contact with other staff or children. If your child does have to isolate, and is not unwell themselves, we will provide remote education for them to access. Details will be shared with you at the same time as initial contact is made.

To help control the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant, Public Health England is now recommending that, in the South East, close contacts of PCR positive individuals in schools and colleges take a voluntary PCR test through NHS Test and Trace as soon as possible, rather than waiting until day 5 of their 10-day isolation period as they had previously advised. This should be done even if they are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. This guidance only applies to children school-aged or college-aged.

Please note that if a close contact undertakes a voluntary PCR test during their 10-day isolation period and tests negative for the virus, they must still complete 10 full days of self-isolation. This is because the incubation period of the virus means they could develop coronavirus after receiving a negative test result if it's within the 10 days. This gives close contacts' households the best chance of minimising the possible risk of spreading COVID-19 to others. It is important to remember that as many as 1 in 3 people with coronavirus have no symptoms.

What should I do if I need to contact the school office or my child's Teacher?

In line with government guidance, we continue to ask that parents do not enter the school site. For contact, the School Office will be open from 8.30am -4.30pm on Monday - Thursday and 8.30am -4.00pm on a Friday.

If there is an urgent message for your child's class teacher ahead of the day please call the School office and we will arrange to share this. If there is an important message such as a change in pick up arrangements please call the school office on 02380 261808 before 3pm and leave a message on the answer machine. These are checked regularly and again at 3pm each day.

For any less urgent matters or if you wish to talk to a member of staff please email: adminoffice@hiltingbury-jun.hants.sch.uk and we will ensure any messages are passed to the relevant staff member.

It is really important that we continue to work together and follow government guidelines to ensure the safety of the whole school community.

Kind regards

Zoe Loosemore Headteacher