

21st September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 Symptoms

Children have made an enthusiastic start to the term and the atmosphere in the school is really lovely. I do however appreciate that it has not been without its challenges, particularly in relation to frustrations we all share in getting tests for COVID-19.

There is no doubt that there will be a significant number of positive cases in our community. The challenge for us all is how to prevent it spreading.

Schools have to apply very strict measures to help prevent it spreading. These include being very careful around the symptoms that children and adults present at school.

The difficulty here is that at the start of a term and during the autumn and winter months there are always coughs and colds. However during this period we have to assume that these could be a symptom of the virus and we cannot have anyone on the premises who presents with particular symptoms.

We have had some guidance around the main symptoms to respond to:

- High temperature
- **New** continuous cough (this means coughing a **lot for more than an hour**, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- Loss / change in smell and taste

The cough is especially difficult to assess as it does rely on our judgement but we are trying our best to apply the description above.

If your child displays any of the symptoms mentioned above, our first aiders will assess whether they present in the way described and will only call you if they conclude that there is a need.

Please understand that we have to take a cautious view and cannot take any risks as to do so puts our whole school community at risk.

It is essential that if you are asked to collect your child based on our first aiders assessment, that you come promptly to the school and collect your child so we minimise the risk to other children and adults. You will also have to collect any siblings or members of the family who live in the same household.

Your child with symptoms will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the start of the symptoms and the rest of your household will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the start of your child's symptoms. It is very important that you do this.

During the period of isolation, if a member of the household presents with symptoms please phone NHS 111 for advice and the school so we can guide you about how the isolation period will change. Only members of the household with symptoms should get themselves tested.

If their result comes back, negative then their self-isolation and that of the household can end and children can return to school. Please email us with the result and the date the test was taken to: office@earlsmead.co.uk

If you are unable to get your child tested, then as soon as the household completes their period of self-isolation as described above, they can return to school. This is because from what we currently know about the virus, it can be assumed that in this time it will have worked its way out of everyone's system.

We keep a record of the due date for return. Please phone the office to check this if you are unsure. If your child is tested and gets a positive result you must tell the school straight away so that we can take the appropriate action in relation to other members of the school community they have had contact with.

Please ensure that you inform the school office and not just your child's class teacher of any test results. It is important that you keep in regular contact with the school.

For any period that your child is not in school, we will provide your child with work to do at home. This will be a combination of paper based work and online work.

Please understand that we do not want any child to miss a day of school unnecessarily. However it is crucial at this time for us all to trust each other and work together to take the steps we have been instructed to in order to help stop the spread of the virus.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation during this difficult time.

Best wishes,



Hina Shah
Headteacher

Child sent home with COVID-19 symptom(s)

What to do if your **child** has symptoms?

Child with symptoms to self-isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms.

Your child with symptoms should get tested.

COVID-19 test taken

Negative test result

Please call the school on 020 8808 7915 and email the test result to office@earlsmead.co.uk
Household and child's self-isolation can end and your child can return to school if no one in the household presents symptoms.

Positive test result

Please call the school immediately on 020 8808 7915

Child not tested for any reason

After self-isolation of 10 days period, the child can return to school.
Please call the office to check the return date.

What to do if someone in your **household** has symptoms?

Rest of the household to self-isolate for 14 days from the start of the child's symptoms.

If anyone in the household presents with symptoms during this period

Call 111 for advice and the school and follow the "Child with symptoms" process.