

# Penshurst

## CE Primary School

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18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you all well. I am writing to clarify and reinforce some key messages linked to school and Covid 19.

As from 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 'the rule of six' came into effect in England. This means that no person may participate in a gathering which consists of more than six people unless it is one of the explicit exceptions. It is important that we all adhere to this rule; it is designed to keep us all safe.

We have had children absent from school this week with a common cold; their symptoms have been a runny or congested nose – they have not displayed any of the three main Covid 19 symptoms (see below) and they have returned to school once they have felt better.

If your child displays any of the symptoms below they must not attend school. They must remain at home and request a Covid 19 test. They must not return to school but should self-isolate for 10 days or until they receive a negative test result. Pupils must not come to school until either the 10 days (from the onset of symptoms) has passed or they have received a negative test result. Members of the household must isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result has been received. I appreciate that booking a test can be a challenge but the advice to school is clear without a negative test result or having isolated for 10 days pupils cannot return to school.

From NHS website:

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

We are advised by the local authority that even if you have been advised by a health professional or GP that Covid 19 is unlikely to be the cause we must not deviate from the guidance. The guidance is there for our protection and to keep those in our community safe.

I am asking all teachers to ensure that there are activities and work set via our website for any pupil who is isolating because a member of their family has symptoms or if a pupil has symptoms but is feeling well. We do not expect children who are feeling ill to complete home learning.

I hope this adds some clarity; however if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mrs Bennett for further information.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Elliott,  
Headteacher.