



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

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We follow in Christ's footsteps

Wednesday 12th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid-19 Update

I hope you all remain well. With the rapid roll-out of vaccinations, reduced infection rates and further easing of lockdown restrictions, the situation certainly seems optimistic.

In school settings, however, we are still following current national and local guidelines regarding our response to symptoms that staff or pupils present.

The medical advice is clear: you must self-isolate if you have coronavirus symptoms or live in the same household as somebody who does. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- *high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*
- *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)*
- *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.*

Staff have been involved in twice weekly lateral flow testing for some time now and it is a further move in the right direction that lateral flow tests are now available to all households. That said, lateral flow tests are there to monitor and prevent transmission of the virus by carriers who are asymptomatic. If a person displays any symptoms of coronavirus, they should arrange a PCR test to confirm a positive or negative status or self-isolate for the required period.

If an individual is displaying symptoms, a lateral flow test is not sufficient.

We understand this is a cause of frustration for some parents/carers, but this is in line with all current guidelines. As a school, we want all our pupils here learning but, if your child, or anyone in your household displays any symptoms, everyone in the household should self-isolate until a PCR test provides a definitive result.

If we contact you regarding this issue, for example, to ask for further information or to require you to collect your child as symptoms have been noted, we are not trying to be difficult or cause inconvenience. We are continuing to care for and protect your child, our school family and the wider community. Unfortunately, we cannot distinguish a 'covid cough' by listening and we cannot just accept a parent diagnosis. A test or self-isolation is the only definitive option. We always treat parents/carers with the utmost courtesy and simply ask, and indeed expect, the same in return.

Thank you, as always, for your on-going co-operation.

Kind regards

Mrs J Burgess

IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY IN READING OR INTERPRETING THIS DOCUMENT PLEASE CALL 01207 570316

