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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is great to have all the children back at school. There is a fantastic sense of joy, good learning and brilliant behaviour across the whole school. We are so proud of the positive attitudes and enthusiasm towards school and learning.

Fortunately, we have not had any reports of positive cases since opening to all pupils and we hope this will continue to be the case! However, it is inevitable that children will have symptoms and a test will be required.

With the use of Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) by secondary schools to identify asymptomatic pupils, there now seems to be some confusion about what our parents need to do if family members display symptoms. Below I hope to clarify any confusion.

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

If any member of your household becomes unwell with any of the Coronavirus symptoms above then the whole household MUST isolate and the individual MUST have a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. The household must isolate until the results are known. If a positive test is returned, then the whole household must continue to isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started.

The LFT is only to be used for identifying asymptomatic cases (people who have Coronavirus but display no symptoms) They are NOT to be used for anyone displaying symptoms as only a PCR test can test this correctly.

I hope that clarifies any misunderstandings and as always if you have any questions please ask.

With the vaccine programme still being rolled out, we are aware that only a very small number of our school community have had just the first vaccination. Immunity is only effective following the second vaccination. It is very important we continue to follow the measures in place and procedures needed to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your continued support.

Keep safe and well,

Mrs S Hallsworth

Head of School