



Somerford Primary School

Draper Road, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 3AS
Tel : 01202 485436 Fax : 01202 482359
Email : office@somerford.dorset.sch.uk
Website : www.somerford.dorset.sch.uk
Headteacher : Mrs H Frampton

16th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you to support you in making the difficult decision about whether to send your child to school when they are unwell. I understand as a parent myself, that this is a tricky decision at the best of times, made only harder currently with COVID19 to consider.

I hope that the following information will help, but please do contact the school office via phone or email if you are unsure and would like our advice. Please bear in mind we are not medically trained but can tell you what the current guidelines would tell you to do in most situations.

If your child presents as unwell, please ask yourself the following questions:

- Do they have a temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or more?
- Do they have a new, continuous cough? A continuous cough means coughing a lot for more than an hour or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- Do they report a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste?

If the answer is yes to at least one of these questions then do not send your child to school. You will need to book them a COVID test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>. Currently, there is a lack of tests available and you need to keep refreshing the website until a test becomes available. We have been informed that new test slots are released at 8pm and 10am so these are good times to try.

You need to inform the school you are booking a test and your whole household needs to self-isolate until you have received the results. If the test is positive, please inform us immediately. If it is negative, your child can return to school as soon as they feel well enough.

If the answer to all questions was no, then you need to ask the next question:

- Would I normally have sent my child in before COVID19?

If the answer is yes, then you can send them to school. A normal cold, runny nose etc are not reasons to stay off school unless they feel very unwell.

If the answer is no, such as diarrhoea or vomiting, then they must stay off as normal for 48 hours.

I must stress that if your child has one of the symptoms, such as a high temperature, you must access a test, even if their temperature drops with Calpol and even if it is not high for very long. Please do not put other children and staff at risk by sending your child back without a test.

Public Health have also asked us to stress that you must not access a test if your child does not have one of the symptoms. If they have a runny nose and none of the COVID symptoms, they do not need a test.

I completely understand what a difficult time this is and we have all been surprised by how early the cold season has hit all schools. We are here to offer advice and reassurance so please contact us if you have any questions. If we don't know the answer we can find out!

As a school, we have reflected on the advice from Public Health and staff will be wearing face coverings in corridors and shared areas. This means the children will see more people in face coverings in school. I have visited all classes this afternoon in my mask and no one was anxious – I think we are all so used to them now. To reassure you, face coverings will not be worn in lessons by staff, and children do not need a mask in school.

Thank you for your continued support

Best wishes

Helen Frampton
Headteacher