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Dear Parents

Remote Education Plan

As we begin to progress deeper into the term we are receiving more and more calls about children displaying some of the Covid symptoms. I thank you for the way in which you are keeping children and indeed yourselves isolated until you have been able to take a test. I know that this has been a testing experience with some of you told you need to go to Oldham for example! I would remind you to check the front page of our website which has a link to the nearest walk-in centre.

As I have said before, this will be a difficult period for all of us. It would appear that with everybody returning to work, the infection rate is rising and as such, more of us will be forced to isolate for a period of time. The guidance has been revised again:

Main symptoms

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.

No doubt you have already seen stories about local schools having to close bubbles and send children who appear well home. I fear it is a matter of time before we will need to do this. Please remember that at our school we took the decision to work in year group bubbles, this enables us to better support the pupils. An outbreak here may result in the entire year group being forced to isolate for a period of time. This decision however would be made by the Public Health team based upon a 'rapid risk assessment'. As a consequence, the Government has asked all schools to have a 'remote education plan' ready by the end of September. This letter is designed to explain what ours is and how it will work.

The government have told us:

Remote education support

Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, we expect schools to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education. Schools are expected to consider how to continue to improve the quality of their existing offer and have a strong contingency plan in place for remote education provision by the end of September.



This planning will be particularly important to support a scenario in which the logistical challenges of remote provision are greatest, for example where large numbers of pupils are required to remain at home.

In developing these contingency plans, we expect schools to:

use a curriculum sequence that allows access to high-quality online and offline resources and teaching videos and that is linked to the school's curriculum expectations

- give access to high quality remote education resources
- select the online tools that will be consistently used across the school in order to allow interaction, assessment and feedback and make sure staff are trained in their use
- provide printed resources, such as textbooks and workbooks, for pupils who do not have suitable online access

They also said:

The government will also explore making a temporary continuity direction in the autumn term, to give additional clarity to schools, pupils and parents as to what remote education should be provided. DfE will engage with the sector before a final decision is made on this.

We have not seen this yet and don't really know what it means!! As such, we have come up with our own plan which we think is very simple and should be quite familiar to you.

If your child has symptoms and is ill, you will phone the office and tell us you are all isolating and getting a test. During this period of time, your child is ill and we will not set work for an ill child because they are sick and need to get better.

If your child is having to isolate but has no symptoms, the office will tell you that they will pass this on to Miss Kirton. She is the newly appointed Remote Education Tsar! She will begin to liaise with your child's class teacher and prepare work for you. The next day, work will appear for your child on Google Classroom. Miss Kirton will contact you by telephone initially and ensure your child knows what to do. She will then monitor this work over the days and weeks. She will call at various times to ensure your child is on track. The work set will be a mirror of the work they would have done in class.

Should a class have to isolate, this task will fall to the class teacher who may need to use Zoom and contact groups of children at a time.

Finally from me

I do understand that this is not a nice situation for any of us and I hope you can see that what we are trying to do is follow the Government guidance and ensure that the children get the best education we can offer, at a distance!

If there are any comments or questions please contact school.

Kind Regards,

Martin Fallon