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## **AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2020**

**8.10.20**

Dear Parents and Families,

It is so lovely to see so many of our pupils back in school in these difficult times. Thank you for your continued support of the school; we do recognise that this is not an easy time for anyone.

In managing suspected cases of Covid-19, we always act on the advice of Sandwell Public Health. Isolation of individual pupils and staff, class groups and wider groups of pupils is necessary if we are notified by a family or member of staff if a Covid-19 test is being done and results are being waited for. This is beyond School's control and is a necessary part of the need to manage the wider and local Covid situation.

We will contact families where we suspect a child has symptoms and expect families to support the whole school community by respecting the need for their child to be collected immediately and adhering to guidance which includes seeking and following current NHS advice. This advice may or may not include the need for a test or isolation. I also wish to reinforce the message that isolation is NOT an alternative to seeking a test - there is a need to protect the wider school and local community, and it is really important that tests are undertaken if required as this impacts greatly on other pupils and staff in school and on transport.

Please do not send your child to school if you think they are ill - it can often be difficult to tell if a child has coronavirus symptoms, and we would ask that families are cautious and seek NHS 111 advice if their child has a high temperature, a continuous cough or a loss or change to the sense of taste or smell.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please also remember to call school by 8am to tell us that your child is ill- there is an answer machine so you can leave a message overnight - just tell us your child's name and **why** they are not coming to school. If they have symptoms please also tell us when those symptoms started as we have to keep a tracking log of everyone who has symptoms. We may need to call you back for further information.

It has been a challenge to organise the school to meet the needs of current guidance. We are having to make use of outdoor spaces much more due to the restricted space we have within school and the need to manage rooms in a different way to before. Therefore, many families have been asked for suitable outdoor clothing - thank you to those who have supplied this for their child.



Swimming is an activity which has not recently been possible, but we are now looking at this being set up for a very limited number of pupils and will need to be managed very carefully. You will appreciate that it is necessary to keep everyone safe, and limiting such activities is one way we can do this.

Sandwell Educational Visits team have circulated clear direction that offsite visits are NOT to be arranged for the time being either within or outside of Sandwell. Unfortunately, this also affects those pupils who access swimming at the local Langley swimming pool. As soon as advice changes, we will of course look again at this.

Finally, although this is an odd time and gives us challenges we have never faced before, we do appreciate your support of the need to do things differently. We are having still to limit the number of visitors into school and therefore events such as coffee mornings and parents evening will be postponed until it is safe to hold them. Formal meetings are being carefully managed and in a different way as face to face meetings are strictly limited - thank you for your co-operation with this.

Kind regards

Allison Shepherd  
Acting Head Teacher