Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

**January return to school**

I hope that you are all safe and well and have been able to enjoy some time with your family over the Christmas period. I know for some, it might not have been the Christmas you had planned due to COVID.

Despite the disruption that COVID has caused throughout the Christmas break there has been very little change to government guidance for schools. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back to school tomorrow, **Wednesday 5th January** and school will continue to run in the same way that it did before we broke up for the holiday. However, it is important to note that school operations will be dependent on levels of staff absences. Whilst we will do all that we can to keep things as normal as possible, it could mean that classes will have to merge or in very exceptional circumstances, your child may be asked to access remote learning at home for a short period of time. As always, we will keep you updated and fully informed at all times.

As you know there is no longer a requirement for schools to inform parents of positive cases. In the previous half term we sent letters home each time we received notification of a positive case, from this term letters will only be sent when the threshold of positive cases, set by Havering local authority, has been reached.

It is vitally important that we do all we can to keep our community safe. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

* new continuous cough and/or
* high temperature
* a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice online at [Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/) or by phoning NHS 111.

If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 please **do not send your child to school**. Follow the flowchart below.

|  |  |  | **Child feels unwell or shows symptoms of COVID-19** | | |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Self-isolate and take a PCR test** | | |  |  |  |
|  | **Positive**  Isolate at home for up to 10 days  (Day 1 is the day after the first symptoms) | | |  | **Negative**  Return to school when well enough. | | |  |
| **Unwell**  Contact the school office or email [mail@mead.havering.sch.uk](mailto:mail@mead.havering.sch.uk)  Provide Day 1 date.  Explain that your child is unwell and cannot complete schoolwork.  Once they are well enough, follow the well (asymptomatic) guidance. | |  | **Well (asymptomatic)**  Contact the school office or email [mail@mead.havering.sch.uk](mailto:mail@mead.havering.sch.uk)  Provide Day 1 date.  Request a Chromebook if needed to complete work on Google Classroom. This will be available for collection from the School Office that day.  Google Classroom learning starts the next school day | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Day 6**  Take an LFD test. | | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Positive**  Repeat 24 hours later. Self isolation ends once 2 consecutive days of LFD tests are negative or the 10 days of isolation has ended. Child then returns to school if well enough. Please contact the school office or email [mail@mead.havering.sch.uk](mailto:mail@mead.havering.sch.uk) to inform of your child's return date. | |  | **Negative**  Repeat on Day 7. If also negative, self-isolation ends and the child should return to school. Contact the school office or email [mail@mead.havering.sch.uk](mailto:mail@mead.havering.sch.uk) to inform of 2 negative LFD tests. Chromebook to be returned. | |  |  |  |  |

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

* they are fully vaccinated
* they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
* they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
* they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Whilst we anticipate that staff and pupil absences may well lead to some changes being made throughout the coming term, we are positive that school remains the best place for our children to be and we appreciate your continued support.

If you require any additional support or guidance, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Ms A Holmes

Head of School