

1st December 2020

Introduction of STAR students and Covid update

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping well.

This half term our attendance has continued to be well above the national average and I believe this is down to the way TeamTanfield have worked together to support each other. I want to thank you for doing this. It means a lot to all of the staff at school.


As we come into the last few weeks, leading up to Christmas, we want to ensure that we keep everyone safe and avoid people needing to isolate. Therefore, can I ask you to keep your child at home and get them tested if you have any concerns about whether they may have any of the symptoms of Covid-19. As a reminder the most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

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

The top 5 symptoms in children are:

1. **Fatigue**
2. **Headache**
3. **Fever**
4. **Sore throat**
5. **Loss of appetite**

We realise it is difficult to distinguish between Covid-19 and other respiratory infections that children get at this time of the year so the following table may help:

 RECOGNISING CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS					
SYMPTOMS	CORONAVIRUS Symptoms range from mild to severe	COLD Gradual onset of symptoms	FLU Rapid onset of symptoms	HAYFEVER	ASTHMA
Fever ($\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Common	Rare	Common	No	No
Cough	Common (usually dry & continuous)	Mild	Common (usually dry)	Sometimes (usually dry)	Sometimes (wheeze & cough)
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No	No	Sometimes
Headache	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes	No
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	'Itchy' throat	No
Runny / stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common	No
Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common	Rare
Aches & pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No	No
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	No
Diarrhoea	Rare	No	Sometimes (for children)	No	No

Adapted from: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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I'd also like to remind you about Public Health England's advice about **how to prevent the transmission of the virus**:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

In comparison to other schools, we have not had the same level of disruption. However, it is important for all of us to maintain our vigilance and continue to support each other.

I would like to thank those parents who have contacted me when they think there are things that we can do even better. As I've said previously, your child's and family's safety is our number one priority and we will always take feedback on board to improve what we are doing. Please continue to do this.

Finally, this week we have introduced star students on Classcharts. Teachers have been asked to identify one student per lesson who has stood out and been the star student. These students will receive 15 positives and be placed in a draw to win an Amazon voucher each week. You will be able to see if your child has been given this award by using the Classcharts app. Our students have been absolutely fantastic and we are very proud of them. This is another way that we are trying to recognise what they are doing.

Thanks once again for your ongoing support, it really means a lot and we will continue to keep you informed of any further developments.

Take care,



Mr S Clough
Headteacher

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