

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping well.



I am sure that you will have heard about a neighbouring school having to close due to an increase in Covid-19 cases. I know that some of you may be worried by this. Therefore, I am hoping that I can reassure you. Thankfully, we haven't had any cases since the letter we sent you on the 17th September.

We would like to thank all members of TeamTanfield for following our routines. We believe that the fantastic support we have had with the wearing of face masks in classrooms where social distancing is not possible has helped with this.

However, we can't be complacent because the number of cases in the local area are increasing. Therefore, we need to continue to stay vigilant with our mask wearing and social distancing. We would ask for your support with this when students are out of school, as well as in it. We realise that some of our students will have friends in other schools and may be socialising with them on a night time and we would strongly recommend against this.

I would like to take this opportunity 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.

Finally, I'd like to remind you about Public Health England's advice about **how to prevent** the transmission of the virus and what to do if you develop symptoms:

- 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

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

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)

However, recently, researchers at King's College London have found that the top 5 symptoms in children are:

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

If your child develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they must remain at home and make arrangements to be tested. If positive, all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: nhs.uk/coronavirus

I know that this is a worrying time for parents but we will continue to keep you informed of any further developments.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Clough Headteacher