



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

November 2020

Covid-19 and assessment week update

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping well and have had a good half term holiday.

Last night the Prime Minister announced another lockdown beginning on Thursday. Unlike the first lockdown schools will remain open.

Last half term the national attendance in secondary schools was 86%. At Tanfield we had an attendance of 93.17%. We believe this was down to the way that TeamTanfield pulled together to keep each other as safe as possible. We want to make sure that we continue this during the next half term. Therefore, we are asking for your support once again.

If you or anyone in your household has had a positive test result over the last week or are waiting for a test result, can you please let us know using the help@tanfieldschool.co.uk email address. If a student develops symptoms they must self-isolate for 10 days. If they have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms. We use the onset of symptoms to track close contacts. People can spread Covid-19 two days before the first symptom appears. If students come to school with symptoms this increases the number of days we have to track back, which ultimately leads to more students having to self-isolate. Therefore, it is vitally important that if your child has any of the following symptoms they should stay at home and get a test:

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, as I wrote in a previous letter, 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**

When we had our reported cases, the symptoms were more from the second list. Another reported symptom was a sore neck. We realise it is so difficult to distinguish between Covid-19 and other respiratory infections that children get at this time of the year but we would ask you to take no chances if you have any thoughts that it might be Covid-19. The following table may help:

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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

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

We will be reminding your child of these along with the importance of wearing face masks in classrooms, where social distancing is not possible. Your support with this last half term meant that our students were fantastic at following these measures so thank you.

We would also ask for your support when students are out of school, as well as in it. We realise that students want to socialise with friends on a night time but we would strongly recommend against this.

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, it is the second assessment week this week. Therefore, we would ask for your support in ensuring your child is preparing for these by revising at home. All of the resources your child needs can be found on their Google Classroom. Please don't worry if your child has been absent for these assessments as we will try to give them a chance to do their assessment when they return.

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 Steven Clough

Headteacher

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