



16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Covid-19 update and information about parents evenings

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping well.

I want to thank you for your support at the start of this half term. Our attendance has continued to be well above the national average (over 6% higher). We have also managed to keep all members of TeamTanfield at school, due to everyone following the Covid advice. I know from being at a Durham headteacher meeting this week that some schools have not been so fortunate and are suffering a lot of disruption.

We realise that it is very difficult to distinguish between Covid-19 and other respiratory infections but we would ask for you to continue to take no chances if you have any thoughts that it might be Covid-19. Last week, I had my own experience of the decision you may be faced with. My son had a sore throat and began with a temperature. Whilst I thought it was just a cold, the fact that he had one of the main symptoms I kept him off school on Monday and took him for a test. Thankfully, the test came back negative on Tuesday and he was able to return to school on Wednesday. I used the table below to help me make the decision. As his temperature was 38.2 and that is rare for a cold, I didn't want to take the chance.

<i>Boots</i> 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

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of a:

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

However, 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**

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

Hopefully, if we continue to support each other, we will get through this half term without too much disruption.

### **Parents evenings**

For students to meet our high expectations, we know that we need to invest in building very strong relationships with parents, carers and families. We want you to play an active part in your child's education and to support our staff as they carry out their responsibilities with your child. Therefore, we have looked at how we can continue to have parents evenings during these Covid times. We have invested in an online system that will run through WEDUC and will enable you to have appointments with all of your child's teachers remotely. We will send out further information about how it works at a later date. However, I thought it would be useful to let you know the calendared dates for the different year groups.

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Date of parents evening</b>
<b>7</b>	1st December
<b>8</b>	16th march
<b>9</b>	13th April
<b>10</b>	23rd March
<b>11</b>	8th December

If you have any concerns about your child's learning, there is no need to wait until the date of the parents evening. We are keen to hear from you as soon as an issue arises so that we can sort it out as quickly as possible.

Finally, I want to thank you 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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