



ROBERT MELLORS PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Tuesday 8th September

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now into our second week back and the children are really settling well back in to the routines of daily school life and their learning.

This week, we have seen a significant drop in attendance and we are aware that some of the children are starting to suffer from the normal school bugs – colds, coughs etc. We are experiencing a high number of calls to school each morning as absences are being reported and some of you are asking for advice on whether to send your children to school or not.

Yesterday, Jonathan Gribbin, the Director of Public Health has issued a public statement as follows:

“If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms, keep them home from school and get a test. Let your school know the test results as soon as you get them. Everyone in the household should stay at home while a person with symptoms is tested, and afterwards, in line with NHS self-isolation guidance, if the test result is positive.”

“The school will let you know if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 and your child needs to be isolated. Schools will provide home learning for children who are in a bubble that needs to stay at home.”

“If you have children at different schools or in different bubbles, and one of your children is in a group which has been sent home to isolate, there is no need for any other household members to stay at home, unless the child develops symptoms.”

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are as follows;

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you’ve noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Please contact school at the earliest possibility to let us know of your child’s absence.

Home Learning

We will be providing home learning for children who are unable to attend school for reasons stated below.

My child is isolating for 14 days because a family member has a confirmed case of coronavirus

or

My child has been unwell with a confirmed case of coronavirus but is feeling well enough to do some learning before the 10 day isolation period is over

Your child should isolate from the day that the first symptom was experienced.



While you are waiting for the results of a test, your child should access learning activities which can be found on the BBC Bitesize website.

Follow this link and select the year group learning relevant to your child.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/this-terms-topics>

Each day, your child should do at least one piece of learning from each of the areas provided; English, Maths, Science, History and Geography. They should work through the activities in the order that they are presented on the website.

If your child is finding the learning too difficult, then you can choose activities for the year group below.

If you do not have access to a computer/tablet which allows your child to access this learning, then you should contact us and we will make arrangements to provide learning packs.

Once you have received the results of a test and, if they are positive, further information regarding home learning will be shared with you which will last for the full isolation period.

My child is in a class where another child or adult has confirmed coronavirus and they must isolate for 14 days

Home learning will be provided for every child who falls in to this category from the first day of absence. This will be a combination of online learning and packs provided by school.

My child does not have any symptoms of coronavirus but is too unwell to attend school

If your child falls in to this category, home learning will **not** be provided. We ask that you monitor your child's illness closely and return them to school as soon as possible to limit the number of days absence that they have.

If at any time, you require any further clarification on this information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Additionally, if you need any resources to support home learning, please ask and we will do whatever we can to help.

In the meantime, thank you to those of you who have shared your support and feedback on the systems that we have in place at school to keep everyone safe.

Please be reminded that, unless you have made a specific arrangement with myself, **the one-way system that we have in place is compulsory**. If you have any questions relating to this that you wish to raise, I ask that you ring the school office and ask to speak to me, rather than the class teachers who will be prioritising the children and their learning.

Best regards

Mrs Essex

