

25 March 2021

Dear Families

I wanted to write to you before our Easter break, to wish you all a very relaxing two weeks off. The children and staff have worked so hard these past 3 weeks, since returning from lockdown, and I know you all deserve some much-needed rest and relaxation.

### **Uniform**

Now that the children are back in school full time, we do expect them all to be wearing full school uniform, every day, apart from when they have their PE lessons. School uniform makes children feel proud to come to school, look smart and have pride in their appearance. I am therefore asking all parents to ensure that children return in full school uniform on Monday April 12th. Children not wearing uniform will be provided with spare uniform (wherever possible) and parents will be asked to return this the next day, when children are wearing their own uniform to school.

Items of uniform with the school logo on them, including fleeces, polo shirts and sweatshirts, are available to purchase through local suppliers including Jonny Ds (near Rotherham market) and Pinders (In Rotherham interchange bus station), although they are operating a click and collect only order at the moment. Non-logo items are also available from most supermarkets, and we are more than happy for children to wear these items.

### **Illness**

This week, we have seen a higher than 'normal' number of children displaying symptoms of cold, sneezing, sore throat and high temperature. As you know from our earlier text message in the week, these can all be symptoms of Slapped Cheek, which has been confirmed in a number of our younger children in school.

Some parents have been asking about the lateral flow devices that are available for primary aged children, and we have been advised that Lateral Flow Devices are available to collect from Herringthorpe Stadium Car Park, Herringthorpe, Rotherham, S65 2HR from 1pm – 8pm 7 days a week.

Following the most recent guidance, from the Department of Health, children of primary school age do not *have* to follow the LFT twice weekly testing system which the majority of our staff are doing. However, in doing so it may help to stop any potential spread of children who are asymptomatic. They are not always the most pleasant of experiences, so I understand parents may not want to put their child through it, but this proves it could be useful.

If you tell us your child has any Covid symptoms – or we witness any of them in school, then you will be asked to organise a test for your child to rule out Covid. The main signs of Covid are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a 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)
- **a 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

Parents may feel that this approach is over the top, however, this approach to following the rules exactly is also helping our staff to feel more comfortable and confident when in their work place, which is massively important to myself.

If you or your child develops symptoms and has to have a test over a weekend or Easter holiday, then please always notify us on the following email address: [enquiries@coleridgeprimary.org](mailto:enquiries@coleridgeprimary.org) this will be checked regularly over the weekend/holidays, just in case any news means we have to isolate bubbles of children and staff. This allows us to act as quickly as we can and keep as many people as safe as we can.

**You can find out more about the symptoms and how to book a test using the following link:**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

I appreciate all of your support, and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Mr I Tankard  
Head teacher