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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

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Dear Parents and Carers

This is just a short note to repeat a message sent previously on a number of occasions. Obviously though there is still some confusion around self-isolation requirements once anyone in a family has taken a COVID-19 test as a result of COVID symptoms. Some members of our community have routine tests as a part of their role and we understand that these routine tests take place not as a result of symptoms, but at their employer's behest for example front line NHS workers. This testing process sits outside of tests we order as individuals as a result of symptoms of COVID-19.

If, however, a member of a family unit/household has to go for a COVID-19 test, then the whole family should be self-isolating and children should not be sent to school¹. You can only get a test if you tell the NHS that you have symptoms, therefore you must have symptoms at the time of the test and therefore you must be at risk of having contracted COVID-19. We take this as a proxy for COVID-19 until there is a negative test result for all tests taken in the family, there are no further symptomatic members of the family and/or the period of self-isolation is complete.

Once a member of the family has taken a test, for which you have stated that you have symptoms, you cannot then tell school that you no longer have symptoms so that your child can come to school. We cannot pick and choose when we have symptoms to best suit education or childcare requirements and if we are symptomatic enough to require a test, we are symptomatic enough to have to wait for results before risking the health of other members of the community.

I know that the vast majority of parents are committed to doing the right thing every time and without that the system would break, thank you for your support. However, I must make it clear, where there is any doubt about the correct process being followed, I will return students to home until we have cleared up any concerns to my satisfaction.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher

¹ <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>