

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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18 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has felt like summer again at school this week and we even had a coveted 'blazer off' day on Tuesday! It has been lovely to look out over the school field and see our young people playing sport and enjoying our grounds in the sunshine.

Health and Safety

We had a visit from our health and safety compliance officer this week in order to check our back to school arrangements. We are very pleased to report that the visit went well and he was happy with what he saw.

September Colds

We are starting to get the usual September colds in school. At this time, it can be difficult to make the distinction between a cold and COVID-19 symptoms. As a general rule, a cold tends to be accompanied by a blocked or runny nose and a cough which is wet or 'mucousy'. A COVID-19 cough is characterised as 'dry and persistent'.

If your child has a cold, please do send them to school. If you are in any doubt, please refer to the NHS website and if you suspect COVID-19 symptoms, we ask that you do follow the guidance below.

COVID-19 Symptoms

If your child has **any** of the following symptoms: a new dry and persistent cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste or smell, they must stay off school and you should book a test. All other members of the family must also self-isolate until the test results come back. If someone else in your household has symptoms, please do **not** send your child to school. They must also self-isolate until the person with symptoms is tested.

Attached to this letter is a helpful flowchart to remind parents about the steps to take if someone has symptoms and how long the self-isolation periods are. It's a good one to print out and keep handy for reference.

COVID-19 Testing

We realise there are issues with getting a test at the moment and we hope this will be resolved soon. Please do keep trying and do keep in touch with us to let us know how you are getting on.

Virtual Curriculum

We have not had any pupils or staff members with a positive test in school and we pray that this will continue. However, you will be aware from the media that other local schools have not been as fortunate. We are making plans for our 'virtual curriculum' which we will be able to implement in the event that different year groups have to be sent home for 14 days of self-isolation. We will be sending more information to parents about this shortly.

Believe.....

Acting Principal Mrs C Walmsley
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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Dropping Off Items

As you will be aware from our risk assessment, I am afraid we are unable to accept forgotten items being dropped off by parents at the Lodge. If your child has forgotten their packed lunch, we will ensure they get a school lunch and they won't go hungry. Thank you for your understanding in this.

Parking at the hospital

Please can parents avoid parking in the COVID testing bay near the helipad at the back of the hospital. We have been contacted by the hospital recently regarding this.

Open Evening

In amongst the world of hand gel and COVID-19 arrangements, the normal life of the school continues. Last night would have been our rearranged Open Evening and what a lovely night it would have been for it! This event is now online, so please do encourage any family or friends with children in Year 6 to visit our website for information, talks and videos.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope you can enjoy a sunny weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Walmsley', written in a cursive style.

Mrs C Walmsley
Acting Principal