

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Following updated DFE guidelines that were published on Sunday, staff have resumed wearing face masks in communal areas within school. At present, staff are not required to wear any face covering in the classroom. We are asking that if you need to enter the school building at any time, that you also wear a face mask as an additional precaution. If necessary, disposable face masks will be available at reception for your use.

As you may be aware, many local schools are seeing high numbers of common childhood illnesses such as RSV, Chickenpox, Hand Foot and Mouth and common colds circulating at the moment as well as Covid-19. Therefore, please find below some guidance from a recent Public Health England briefing:

Children who are unwell should not attend the setting and should remain at home until their acute symptoms resolve (+24 hours for a fever, +48 hours for sickness/diarrhoea).

- **IF** these symptoms develop into a cough, temperature, changes to taste and or smell, they should isolate and get tested for Covid-19

- **IF** the test is negative for Covid-19, the child still needs to remain at home until at least 24 hours fever free and acute symptoms are resolved

- Parents should not try and 'second guess' diagnosis – if pupils have one or more of the key Covid symptoms they should isolate and test. Other symptoms may be present however testing and isolation are based on these three symptoms: **Cough, High temperature, Loss of taste and/or smell**  
Examples of acute symptoms with which children should not attend school/nursery/college include fever, muscle aches, hacking cough

Examples of symptoms with which children could attend school/nursery/college include persistent cough (if covid test is negative), runny nose, irritable cough (**If Covid -19 positive, they must have completed their appropriate isolation period before returning to school**)

Mrs Talbot