

Information for parents/carers

Thank you for all your support in helping our schools support your children in returning to school. It has been wonderful to have the young people back in school and learning. Please pass on my thanks to them for their excellent behaviour during the first week and the maturity with which they have dealt with the changes and the new regulations.

Covid has not gone away and it remains extremely important that any child with symptoms of Covid stays away from school to avoid the risk of spreading infection to others, including the more vulnerable in our communities. However, as young people come together after so many months apart it is inevitable that germs are spread and we will see a rise in the usual seasonal coughs and colds. It is sometimes difficult to tell what is a seasonal cough and cold and what is Covid. To help we have put together the flow chart below.

The symptoms of Covid are:

- high temperature – feeling hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – 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 – you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different from normal
- If your child is displaying Covid-19 related symptoms please do not send them into school. Please self-isolate until you are able to access a test.

Below is a flow-chart which is designed to help you in your decision making around whether to keep your child off if they are poorly.

