



Kings Avenue Primary School
Kings Avenue
London
SW4 8BQ
Tel: 020 7622 1208
Fax: 020 7498 3332

Head teacher: Miss R Mollett

22nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Your Child's Attendance.

Over the last three weeks, it has been wonderful to see the children return to school to resume their education and to reunite them with their friends and members of staff. Of course, this process has not been easy and ensuring our school is Covid-secure has taken a considerable amount of time and resources to get right.

Over the coming months, it is increasingly likely that children will suffer from seasonal colds and flu. This will make identifying those with Covid-19 more difficult and it is therefore important to know the difference, so you as parents can make informed decisions about whether to send your child to school or whether you should self-isolate them and arrange for a Covid test. The main symptoms of coronavirus to watch for are:

- **High temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back. If using a thermometer then it would generally be considered high if it is over 37.8 degrees;
- **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24-hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); and/or
- **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.

If your child has one or more of these symptoms and they do not have other symptoms associated with a cold or flu (see below) then you should keep them at home in self-isolation for 14 days from the first day symptoms appear and arrange for a test as soon as possible.

It also means that the rest of the household should self-isolate including siblings in other classes/schools. If the result is negative then they can return to school immediately. However, if the test result is positive, self-isolation should continue in line with government guidance and the school should be informed immediately by phone.

We are aware of the current problems with testing capacity and the frustration that this is causing, but it is important that we do not add to the problem and therefore only arrange tests where there are clear symptoms present.

The following symptoms **are not usually associated with Covid-19** and therefore are more likely to indicate a different condition:

- **Sneezing** – this is most commonly associated with a cold or an allergy;
- **Body aches** - this is most commonly associated with cold or flu;
- **Headache** - this is most commonly associated with a flu;
- **Sore throat** - this is most commonly associated with a cold;
- **Runny nose** - this is most commonly associated with a cold;
- **Diarrhoea** - this is most commonly associated with flu or a gastro infection.

If your child has one or more of these symptoms then it is less likely to be Covid-19 and you should use parental judgement to decide if they are fit to attend school or not. If you are unsure and they present with these symptoms and Covid-19 symptoms then you may wish to contact NHS 111 for further guidance or to arrange a test. If you are not sure whether they have a cold, flu or Covid-19 then you can use NHS 111 online symptom checker which will help you identify

Please keep this letter somewhere safe and refer to it as necessary through the winter term. We appreciate that as parents this is an anxious time but please be assured we are doing everything we can to provide a safe environment for your children.

In all other circumstances, your child should continue to come to school as normal so that we can provide the best possible education for them in a safe and supportive environment. Missing out on their education represents an equal risk to their future. As such, other than for the reasons stated in this letter, we appreciate your efforts to ensure your child's attendance is as positive as possible over the course of this academic year.

Yours sincerely

Miss Rachel Mollett
Head teacher