



BEARWOOD Primary and Nursery School

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Learning, Enjoying & Succeeding Together

14th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

RE: Attendance

I hope this letter finds you all well. We have had a few queries around attendance so I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the guidelines. Attendance is now mandatory, except where statutory exemptions apply. It is vital for all children attend school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. From this point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- Parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age.
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.
- The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

The NHS advises that if a child has mild cold-like symptoms they should continue to go to school. **Sore throats and blocked or runny noses are not symptoms of coronavirus.** If your child has a temperature, along with the cold, then please contact 111 for further advice.

Symptoms of Coronavirus in children

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature.
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.



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- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible by ringing 111.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result
3. Inform the school of the outcome as soon as possible.

We also attach a Quick Reference Guide for Parents for your information. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Yours sincerely,



Laura Bennett
Headteacher



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