Friday 18th September.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you’ve all had a good week. This week has not been without its challenges but on the whole things have gone pretty smoothly at school.

As you are aware, the guidance that we must follow is very clear that pupils who show any symptoms of Covid-19 must isolate for 10 days unless they have a test and this is negative. Anyone who lives with these pupils should isolate for 14 days unless the test shows negative.

This has had an impact on our attendance this week as we have to act according to the guidance if pupils show any symptoms. What is compounding the issue is that it is proving quite difficult to book tests at the moment, I’m sure you have heard about this on the news.

The symptoms that we focus on are a **new and persistent** cough or a high temperature (<37.8). Whilst loss of taste or smell is another key symptom we are told that this is less obvious with children, but more common in adults. If your child is suffering from a cold or other illness they don’t need to stay away from school, and don’t need to isolate for a period of time. It is your call whether they are well enough to attend. As always, if you are in any doubt please speak to us. I have attached a flowchart that Shropshire authority have produced which summarises this is a very concise and clear way.

We are concerned that as we approach the winter months more children will develop coughs and temperatures so we are making sure that our remote/home learning facilities are in place so that education can continue if your child(ren) are not able to attend. All pupils in Years 3-6 have now been set up with a Microsoft Office 365 account. As well as email and Teams this also provides them with access to a wider range of Microsoft software (eg: word, powerpoint) under our licence. Miss Hermitt has produced a guide that will support you in using this package; this has been sent to you in this email. If you are having any difficulties accessing this please contact Miss Hermitt on a.hermitt@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk. For pupils in preschool, reception , years one and two we will be using Tapestry software to facilitate home learning. Details of this will be published very early next week. If for any reason you will have difficulties accessing remote learning please do let us know and we will do all we can to help.

We are also in the process of putting plans into place to return to a more usual menu at lunchtimes, with children eating in the dining hall rather than in their classrooms. We are aiming to ‘return to normality’ on Monday 5th October. I will give you further details about this once plans are finalised.

Finally one of our parents, Mrs Potts, is undertaking a huge challenge of trying to cycle 300 miles during September. She is doing this to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Rather you than me Mrs Potts, I still haven’t been on my bike since we did the triathlon 18 months ago! We wish her the best of luck achieving this and if you would like to support her here is a link to the fundraising page: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/sams-cycle-300-fundraising-page-49>

Thank you all for your fantastic support, have a lovely weekend.

Simon Dyson

Principal