

9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Ms J Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH  
Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you have had a healthy and happy summer break, it has been lovely seeing all our families and pupils returning to school eager to see friends, teachers and ready to learn. We have enjoyed the sound of laughter once again filling the school. The school has put robust safety measures in place to reduce the risks, keep your child safe and to support with the transition back into learning.

We would like to take this opportunity to clarify expectations regarding attendance together with a summary table, over page, answering some of the frequently asked questions and scenarios, which we hope will lessen your fears surrounding your child's attendance at school.

In March when the Coronavirus outbreak was increasing, the government made it clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. **This has now changed, the government have stated that from September 2020 all children must return to school**, this is to minimise the long-term impact of the pandemic on your children's education, wellbeing and wider development. School attendance is therefore mandatory again and means from this point the usual rules on compulsory school attendance will apply. We do appreciate that some of our pupils have complex medical needs and you must continue to following the guidance of your medical consultant, however, we will require evidence of their advice to allow us to record the attendance accurately and in-line with the government's regulations.

We understand that after long periods of limited socialisation, children are more likely to contract common childhood viruses. It can be difficult to distinguish between Coronavirus symptoms and other viruses, you can access <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> this website has resources that explain symptoms and when to go for a test. If your child is not exhibiting Coronavirus symptoms and has just a common cold, then your child can attend school, if they are well enough. Please be assured that if your child is poorly during the school day we will call and ask you to collect them.

We would encourage parents not to take holidays in term time, as per the school's attendance policy, holidays will not be authorised and could result in a penalty notice being issued.

If you have any specific concerns please call or email the school for help, advice and support.

Yours faithfully



Jill Palmer  
Principal

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