



ACKLAM WHIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Always a chance for everyone!”

Headteacher: Mr D Gamble Address: Carlbury Avenue, Acklam, Middlesbrough TS5 8SQ

Tel: (01642) 813938 Email: awcontact@acklamwhin.co.uk www.Acklamwhin.co.uk

 /Acklamwhin  @acklamwhin

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you again for all your kind words and support as school has settled back into a new form of normality this week. The children have been amazing and have come back full of energy and enthusiasm. Can I thank all our hard working staff for all their efforts to get school back up and running and as ‘normal’ as we can possibly make it.

The drop-offs and pick-ups are working a lot more smoothly now with the new arrangements and with your help and cooperation. At times we still have some pinch points, particularly around Nursery and the Y1 classrooms at the end of the day. Last night we had a Nursery child hurt at home time, so please exercise caution and social distancing wherever you can. We will keep things as they are for the next couple of weeks and let you know if any further changes are needed.

Apologies for another long letter – but there is some really important information we need to share with you.

It is usual at this time of year that children (and adults) will begin to pick up colds, sniffles, sore throats and an upset stomach. If your child is presenting with common cold symptoms, i.e. a runny nose and sneezing, as well as a sore throat or an upset stomach, **then the usual caution is advised**. If they are well enough, they can attend school and should not require a test. If they are not well enough to attend school, they should be monitored as usual and only return when they are fit and well. If you are concerned, call 111 for advice.

The Local Authority have provided some updated guidance to help you make a judgement on any worries you may have if your child is feeling poorly with potential COVID symptoms:

It is vitally important that no one displaying symptoms of Covid attends school or nursery.

If your child, or anyone in your household, is showing ANY of the symptoms of Covid, all members of the household need to isolate immediately and the person with symptoms should have a Covid test.

The symptoms of Covid are:

- **A high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- **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);
- **A 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 develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. All members of the household must also isolate until the result of the test is back. Please alert your child’s school if you have taken them for a test and please inform school of the confirmed result (and only access a COVID test for individuals if they develop symptoms).

Isolation means you should stay at home. Do not go to work, go out shopping or take your children to school or nursery. You will need to make arrangements for family or friends to help out. You should not socialise or have any visitors to your home.

If the test of the person with symptoms is negative, then no-one needs to isolate, and the child should return to school or nursery once they feel well.

If the test of the person with symptoms is positive, then the person who has tested positive for Covid must isolate for 10 days and everyone else in the house must isolate for 14 days. Parents/carers MUST make schools/educational settings and workplaces aware of any positive test.

Testing is available locally and at the moment, is in high demand. Anyone with any of the coronavirus symptoms is advised to book a test online www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

If you are having difficulty booking a test and you have a car, you can attend the Middlehaven site (next to the Riverside) where you may be able to get a test if you turn up, depending on the demand. If you do not have access to a car and are in need of a test, contact the school office.

For further information about Covid, please call 111 or go to www.gov.uk/coronavirus

You will have seen in the news this week the number of schools having to self-isolate bubbles or year groups. We are working closely with Public Health England and the Local Authority to be fully prepared if we have a positive case in school from either a pupil or member of staff. In the event of a self-isolation incident, we will contact you as soon as we have analysed and discussed the risk assessment with PHE. We will not be sharing information on social media, only via the app and email, so please ensure you have your notifications for the app turned on.

The latest national restrictions and guidance on keeping everyone safe were announced by the Prime Minister on Wednesday. Social distancing and hygiene remain a high priority for us all and it looks as though that will continue to be the case for months to come. With that in mind, we will have to revise how we deliver the communal events we usually have in the Autumn Term at Acklam Whin.

- **Parents' Evening** cannot be face to face this year and we will let you know in the coming weeks our plans to ensure you are still updated and how you can communicate with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress.
- **Harvest Festival** will be cancelled this year, but we will be holding mini Harvest celebrations in individual classes. Unfortunately, we cannot collect in donations and recommend that if you wish to donate any items, you do so directly to the Middlesbrough Foodbank - <https://middlesbrough.foodbank.org.uk/>
- **Christmas Fayre** will also be cancelled as we will be unable to hold such a mass social event. We would still like to hold some form of fund-raising activity and we will let you know nearer the time.
- Obviously, **Christmas** is still a long way away (106 days) but regrettably, it also looks like we will be unable to hold the usual concerts and performances. We will be devastated if this is the case, and I promise that we are exploring every option to ensure that you still get to see our amazing children perform this Christmas, even if it has to be virtually.

We know this is still a very anxious time for everyone and as ever, we are here if you need any further advice or support. We are trying our absolute best and your understanding and patience is so very much appreciated by me and all our staff.

Keep safe and we will get through this together.

Mr Gamble