

Banham Primary School

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Banham Primary School

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Dear Parents/ carers

I hope that you are all well and are keeping safe.

This week has been a really positive week across the school with the children successfully returning to school across all year groups. It has been great to welcome the new children starting Reception. The children and staff have all begun to settle down to their new routines and the staff are currently working hard to assess where the children are emotionally and academically.

Based upon these assessments the teachers will begin to develop their full plans for this term and will of course provide you with an outline of the topics very shortly. Please do bear in mind that some children may not have been in school for nearly 6 months and that all staff across the school will be working very hard over the next few weeks and months to close any gaps that there may be.

Coronavirus update

I am sure that many of you are concerned about the continuation, and potential local increase, of coronavirus. I would like to reassure you that the school is following all available guidance and measures to keep the school environment as safe as possible.

For further guidance please follow this link:

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/>

I am sure that over the next few days and months that we will have many members of the school community who may feel that they potentially have symptoms of coronavirus and who may want to seek a test. During the Autumn and Winter terms there is always an increase in colds and coughs and I am sure that everyone will want to be more cautious at this time.

Just to remind you the most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

If you are concerned and decide to keep your child and siblings off school then please do let us know as soon as possible. If you are arranging for a test then please do let us know as this can be used to record the attendance reason. If you are waiting for a test result then the family should self-isolate until the result is known.

If the test is **negative** and the child has **no** symptoms then they can return back to school, **however** if they **still have** coronavirus symptoms they should still isolate.

If the test is **positive** then please also let us know as soon as possible. The child and your family will need to self-isolate at this point.

When we have received a **confirmed positive result** we will contact the local Health Protection Team and you as members of the school community as soon as we can. This will be via Class Dojo.

We will then take any action that is advised by the local Health Protection Team. This could result in a class or classes being asked to self-isolate.

As I am sure that you can appreciate there will be an increase in the number of coughs and colds over the next few weeks and I am sure that many of you will be extra cautious and wish to keep your child off school. We are expecting our attendance to fluctuate on a daily basis and I want to be clear to everyone that we will contact you if we are notified of a **positive test result** but I do not intend to inform you of potential absences **unless** we as a school send home a child or member of staff with symptoms of coronavirus during that day.

I do not wish to confuse matters, or create additional concern by potentially sending out notifications every day that someone is absent due to potential symptoms of coronavirus. This is consistent with national and local guidance that we are following.

I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support.

Best Wishes,

M Gamble