

The Coppice Primary School

Shawhurst Lane, Wythall,
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Headteacher:
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20.11.2020

Further to yesterday's letter.....

Dear Parents/Carers,

A few parents got in touch after yesterday's letter that set out wider symptoms. Just to reassure, our rationale is to protect the school the best we can, keeping as many as possible of our children in education. I know that this seems counter-intuitive, giving these extra symptoms to consider, but we are mindful of the bigger picture, trying to do the best we can. As stressed before, our track record speaks for itself, we are not the sort of school that wants to keep children at home.

With our most recent positive cases in school (four of them), the associated symptoms have not been the classic three (i.e. they did not have a sudden onset of a continuous cough, high temperature and/or a loss or change in sense of smell or taste). Instead, they have been symptoms from the list we shared yesterday (one had just a 'snotty nose', others just had headaches or sore throats). I include the screenshot below for your reference (we had the updated symptoms guidance direct from the DfE department that concerns itself with coronavirus infection in school). Accordingly, trying to keep parents fully informed, we thought it best to share these.

Parents know their own children best, and we are not going to turn children away if parents make the decision to send them in exhibiting any of these other symptoms (apart from the obvious like diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting). However, it pays parents to be circumspect, and, particularly if there is a sudden onset of any of the symptoms, they should seek a test as mentioned. Teachers also know their children well and we will be contacting parents if we spot a child with a sudden onset of any symptom from the list.

We know that keeping children off school is not good for the child and often an inconvenience for parents. However, it is better to keep one child off for a couple of days, whilst awaiting a test result, rather than potentially inconveniencing a whole year group of children, having to send them home for fourteen days if an infected child is in school. I know a lot of parents get the bigger picture here.

I hope that explains our position on this more clearly and assists parental understanding. We always strive to do things for the best and we are grateful to parents who appreciate this.



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Bill Heptinstall
20.11.20

 COVID-19 alert

Common question

What are the symptoms of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)?

More common symptoms are fever, a new and continuous cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, anosmia (loss of smell) and ageusia (loss of taste). Non-specific symptoms include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, myalgia, sore throat, headache, nasal congestion, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting.

Atypical symptoms, such as delirium and reduced mobility, can present in older and immunocompromised people, often in the absence of a fever.

www.gov.uk › [government](#) › [publications](#) › [wuhan-novel...](#)

[COVID-19: epidemiology, virology and clinical features - GOV.UK](#)



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