



3rd November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Now that we have returned to school following the half term break, we have looked to set up the school for the next few weeks. We are however aware of how fluid the national situation is and following the announcement by the Prime Minister on Saturday evening of the forthcoming lockdown, it is important that we communicate with the whole school community around our ways of working in order to keep everyone at school as safe as we can.

In my virtual assembly which students will receive tomorrow morning, I have been keen to identify how well the vast majority of students have coped with the changes that we have needed to make during this academic year and that we have seen some super learning going on in classrooms. I have emphasised that all of our actions have consequences and on a positive note talked about our mantra around building positive relationships built on mutual respect being especially important at the moment. I have attached the presentation used so that you can see exactly what has been covered in order to support from home the messages that we as a school are giving.

Can I also use this opportunity to remind everyone of the symptoms of coronavirus below and to be really clear around the protocol now in place should a student be self-isolating or indeed show symptoms.

Main symptoms:

- **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 that you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If students have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) they are to get a test as soon as possible and stay at home until the result comes back. The student, and anyone who they live with, should stay at home and not have visitors until the test result – the only reason to leave home is to go for a test. Anyone in the support bubble should also stay at home if they have been in close contact since the symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

As far as school is concerned, if your child is self-isolating because they have been in contact with someone who has contracted Covid-19, could you please let us know via the Attendance Officer, Mrs Williams. If, on the other hand, they show symptoms and you therefore are

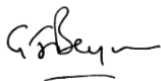
going to need to take them for a test can you contact Mrs Lane, who is my Personal Assistant, and let her know either via the Main Reception number or on email at nlane@chewvalleyschool.co.uk. It is really important that you then communicate back with Mrs Lane to let her know if the test has come back positive or negative.

It is obvious to everyone that the next few months are going to continue to be challenging; however, I know that the staff at Chew Valley will continue to work hard on behalf of all of the students. If we move to a situation where students in particular cohorts are needing to be at home then we are set up for working on Microsoft Teams to make sure that learning can continue in as uninterrupted manner as possible. I have also chosen at this time to share again with you, as an attachment, the model for remote learning should we need this over coming weeks.

Can I also make you aware of the situation should we need to contact you in the middle of a school day if we are instructed for a year group or a different cohort to self-isolate immediately, as has occurred in other local schools. We will ask parents/carers to collect students as soon as is reasonably possible during that day and it is really important that for safeguarding reasons we follow protocol. You will also understand that we cannot have lots of parents/carers on site together due to social distancing requirements. If this is required, we will let cars onto site in small numbers at a time via the main school entrance where we will open the gate and have a member of staff stationed there. Please do not use the car park closest to Chew Stoke/our Sports Centre as this has not got space available in any great numbers during the day. A member of staff will meet you whilst you remain in your car, parked in front of our Library and in a very orderly fashion will collect your child, deliver them to the car and at the same time sign them out. This will require some patience potentially as you queue outside the school gate (please be respectful of other road users here) or whilst waiting for your child to be brought to you. If you are collecting the child of someone else at the same time then we will of course phone the parent/carer as quickly as we can to clarify this so that we have followed safeguarding protocol. If you are happy for your child to walk home, again for younger years we will look to clarify this with you for the same reason.

I hope that this has been a useful clarification for yourselves on a number of important areas. As ever can I thank you for your support of the school which is very much appreciated by myself and the rest of the staff.

With best wishes



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher