15th September 2020

**Covid-19 Related Absence**

Dear Parent/Carer

We are receiving a lot of queries in school regarding Covid-19 and testing. We hope that this letter will assist you in making decisions about whether to seek a test.

Tests are **only** recommended for children who are displaying **one or more** of the following symptoms:

* **Fever –** a temperature of **37.8°C** or higher
* **A** **new, continuous cough –** this means coughing for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24hours (if the child normally has a cough, it may be worse than usual)
* **A loss or change to sense of smell or taste –** cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal

Children reporting other symptoms such as a headache, sore throat, runny or sniffly nose, earache, itchy eyes or tiredness WITHOUT a fever **will not be** advised to take a test.

If you do require a test we recommend you ring **119** or contact your healthcare provider (eg GP or nurse). Tests should take no longer than 72 hours to be completed and returned.

**Please inform school of the results of your tests.**

As normal, if your child is absent from school for any reason – you will need to contact school each day regarding attendance.

Full details of the Government Track and Trace system can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

Yours sincerely,

 Mr J Bullock

 Head Teacher