

New Malden KT3 4LT

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27th November 2020

## Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your support over the autumn term, and your vigilance in keeping the school community safe, following all our rules and requirements around the school site and COVID testing.

Can I please remind everyone that testing your child if your child has COVID-19 symptoms is a requirement to ensure that we minimise the disruption to their learning, and get them back in school as soon as possible. It is important that we ensure our children are in school and not taking prolonged absence due to tests not being taken. This is especially important as all children have missed a significant amount of learning during lockdown which we are working hard to address.

Can we please ask that you book a test as soon as possible after symptoms appear and send in your confirmation email of the test booking so that we can estimate how long your child will be off school to help us plan for their home learning. Please be mindful that the postal tests are taking much longer to process than the walk-in and drive-through test centres. If at all possible, please try to book online for a walk-in or drive-through test to minimise the time lost in school awaiting test results. Please note that if we have any concerns surrounding persistent absence and failure to book a test, the absence may be recorded as unauthorised for the whole duration. We will work closely with these families to offer as much support as possible.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new and consistent cough
- High temperature (above 37.5)
- Loss or change in sense of taste or smell

This is a very anxious and challenging time for all of us, and we are very grateful for your support with all the measures that we have put in place to provide a safe school environment, and to ensure that there is minimal disruption to the children's education.

Best wishes,

Mrs S Yay-Walker

Headteacher











