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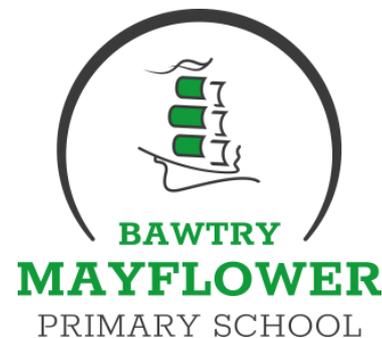
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30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are experiencing high levels of illness in school at the moment. We are also seeing an increase in cases of pupils who are testing positive for Coronavirus, so we encourage everybody to remain vigilant and ensure that they take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection, both at school and at home.

#### Winter illnesses

As always at this time of year, we are experiencing high levels of winter illnesses such as coughs and colds, high temperatures etc. amongst our pupils. When children have a persistent cough or a temperature, we will isolate them and require them to be collected from school. We will also advise that a PCR test is taken.

#### Why do we advise that a PCR test is taken?

Unfortunately, there is no way of knowing whether or not a cough or high temperature is due to Coronavirus, or another seasonal virus. We must ensure that we do all that we can to keep Coronavirus at bay so that infection is kept to a minimum. Following a PCR test a pupil must not return to school until the test result is negative, and they are well enough to do so. If the test is positive they must isolate for 10 days.

We have also sought clarification from Doncaster Public Health regarding those who have previously tested positive for Coronavirus. This was their response:

You should have a PCR test even if it is less than 90 days of a previous positive PCR test if:

- You develop new symptoms
- You are a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of omicron (new variant).

#### Actions following a negative test?

Once a pupil has a negative result they can return to school, if they are well enough to do so. However, if your child is still coughing or not well, then they should remain at home until that cough has subsided or other symptoms have stopped. Regardless of Coronavirus we would require any pupil with a continuous or persistent cough, or a high temperature to stay at home so that they can recover and to prevent spread of illness to others in school.

In short, if a child is ill then they really do need to be at home until the symptoms have subsided, whatever the source of those symptoms may be. We need to prevent the spread of all illness, not just Coronavirus. If we feel that a pupil is not well enough to be at school then we will ask for them to be taken home.

We appreciate that this is very frustrating for parents and carers and we do value your support in keeping all illnesses to a minimum, especially as we approach Christmas. Our primary aim is to keep as many people as possible well, and for them to be able to work and enjoy their time at school and their Christmas holidays.

Kind regards

Miss Diane Risley (Executive Headteacher)

