



18 September 2020

Attendance and Charity events

Dear parents and carers

It has been great to see the children settling back into their learning and the rhythm of school life. I have been very impressed with their positive attitude and how well they are adjusting after the long summer term school closures. Attendance has been good - over 95% for the term so far - and I was encouraged to receive an update this week from Public Health England stating that Luton is no longer in a special COVID category (previously it was an 'area of concern').

I am writing to clarify some issues regarding attendance during the current coronavirus pandemic and to let you know about some opportunities for the children to help others through charity events.

Illness and attendance

I would like to thank families who have reported to school if their child displays possible COVID-19 symptoms and kept them at home until they have received a negative test result.

Attendance at school is now compulsory again but some families have been unsure about when to keep children off school if they have a cold or other seasonal illness. I have listed below the information from the [NHS](#) on coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

If your child, or anyone in your house, has these symptoms, you must not send your child to school and should arrange to have a test as soon as possible. (Please contact the school office so that we are aware.)

Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

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

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

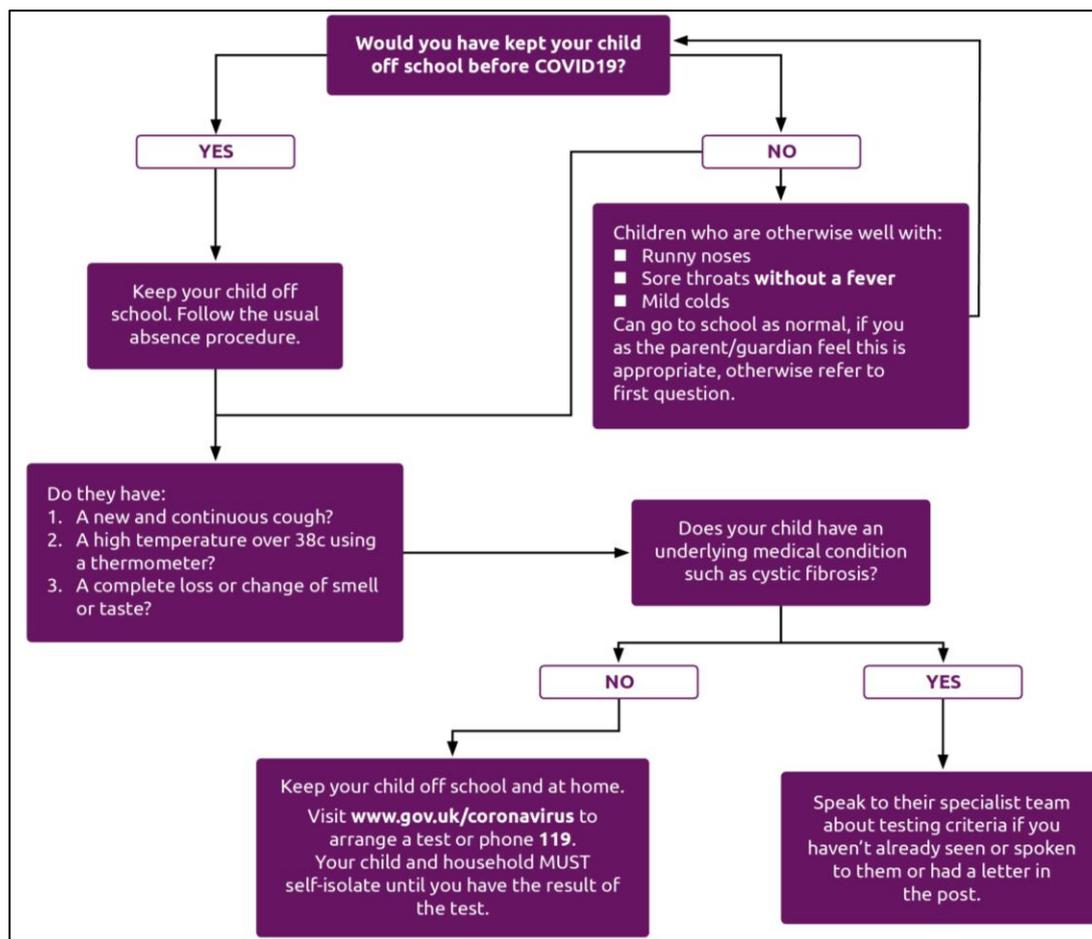
What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result. Link: [Get a test to check if you have coronavirus](#)

If your child displays other illness symptoms such as a runny nose or sore throat, please treat this as you usually would. The current situation can make it more difficult than usual to decide whether to send your child to school, so the following guidance from Luton Borough Council may be of use:



Upcoming charity events for a local foodbank and Macmillan Cancer Support

I am keen for children to have the chance to help others during this difficult time and we have adapted two upcoming events to allow this – Harvest Assembly and non-uniform day for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Non-uniform day for Macmillan Cancer Support next Friday (25th September)

Normally at this time of year, we have a cake sale and coffee morning to help this charity which is very close to the hearts of many of our Someries families. These activities are not possible at present and so instead, we will give children a chance to give through a non-uniform day on Friday 25th September for a £1 donation to Macmillan Cancer Support. If your child has PE on this day (Year 5 and 3 Draco) please ensure that they wear trainers and clothes that are appropriate for sport.)

If your child wishes to come to school in non-uniform on that day, please ensure that they bring in £1 to put in the pot in their class when they get to school.

Harvest Assembly – donations on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th September

During Harvest Festival, it is traditional to be thankful for what we have and to seek to help others. We will support a local foodbank so that local families in need can access food.

- We will collect food from children of all year groups outside on **Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th September** (and we will then set this aside before it is handled by our staff). We are therefore asking if you would be kind enough to send in donations of non-perishable food items such as tins, rice, sugar, soups, packets, etc. Please ensure items are within the best before date.
- Jo White, Children’s Minister at Stopsley Baptist church will lead two assemblies for children on Monday 5th October (one with Year 3 and one with Year 4) to teach lower phase children about Harvest Festival.
- The food donations from the children will be on display at these assemblies and Stopsley Baptist Church’s food bank will collect the food afterwards.

We believe that this gives the children a practical way to help local people.

Yours sincerely, Mr Hunt

