THE HARMONY TRUST
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Wednesday, 04 January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

UK Health Security Agency back to school advice

As we start the new term, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have released a briefing to give advice to parents and carers. Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

"It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. **If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.** Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent".

The UKHSA are also encouraging good hand hygiene (regular washing with soap and warm water) and catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them to help stop illnesses from spreading.

To help limit the spread of illnesses in schools:

- If your child unwell and has a fever, please let school know and keep them home until the fever has resolved.
- If your child has symptoms of strep A or scarlet fever, please contact your GP who may prescribe antibiotics. If your child is well, after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment, they may return to school.
- If your child tests positive for Covid-19, they must stay away from school for 3 full days (the day of the test is day 0). As long as they have no fever after this time, they may return to school.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact your child's school.

Yours sincerely



Antony Hughes
CEO