



MARDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY  
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Headteacher: Miss M Newton BEd (Hons)

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the return of school after a prolonged break, it is common for colds and similar viral infections to circulate. In many cases, children will be well enough to attend school and continue their learning with little or no interruption to their education. In other cases, for instance where they have quite a heavy cold, they may need to take a day or two off to recover.

In order to ensure your children do not miss out on their education, it is important to be clear about how COVID-19 symptoms differ from those of other infections that we normally see circulating at this time of year.

### COVID-19 symptoms

The main symptoms to be aware of are:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

If your child develops **any** of the above symptoms, they should self-isolate and you should book them a test as soon as possible. If a child develops any of these symptoms in school, we will contact parents and advise that a test is required. For advice on testing go to <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

It is essential that people who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who share a household with someone who has symptoms, do not attend school, nursery or other childcare settings, and must self-isolate along with all members of their household. If the test is negative, self-isolation can end for everyone. If the test is positive, Test and Protect will give you further advice.

### Cold-like symptoms

If, however, your child does not have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they **do not** need to be tested and they and you do not need to self-isolate. A runny nose, blocked nose or a sore throat are currently not recognised symptoms that would require a test. Your child can go to school if fit to do so.

I would ask that, as parents, you make the decision about whether your child is well enough to attend school. If you have any doubt, please **contact your GP for medical** advice rather than phoning the school office for advice.

It is our aim to have all children in school and attendance to return to normal. We understand that these are different times but if we all follow the guidance and seek medical advice when needed, we should be able to operate as near to normal as possible.

Yours sincerely

M Newton  
Headteacher

