Durham Diocesan MAT

Cuthbert House
Stonebridge
Durham
DH1 3RY
Telephone: 01388 604515
Website: http://www.durhamdmat.co.uk

16th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following advice received regarding to children's attendance in school during the winter period with the increased risk of suffering with the common cold and similar ailments. We have liaised with our Health and Safety Team and other Trusts to give further clarity. We are pleased to provide further guidance attached with a flowchart which we hope will help.

However, I must point out that we are not health professionals and sadly have to make decisions during the current pandemic with the best of intentions for everyone concerned, using the guidance available to us. I hope that the information attached is useful and will help you make an informed decision about attendance in school.

At the present time across the Trust, we have a number of staff who are now waiting for tests or test results, we are managing to cover this without using 'supply cover'. Where possible we hope this can continue to be the case to avoid staff having to come from other schools into our own bubbles. With this in mind we are therefore continuing to err on the side of caution if your child presents at school with COVID-19 like symptoms and to follow the current advice and guidelines. I realise this can have a significant impact on a family if we ask you to have your child tested however, as we are seeing across the North East the rate of infection increasing and more confirmed cases in Primary School age children.

Finally, can I thank you again for your support, since returning after the summer break. Clearly there have been some bumps in the road over the last week or two and I suspect there will be many more. However, I can promise you we are doing our best to make sure every child is able to access the education they deserve and be back in the normal routines and enjoying their learning.

Yours sincerely

Paul Rickeard
Chief Executive Officer
Durham Diocesan MAT