



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We feel especially fortunate to have such wonderful weather at this time. Ensuring our students are outside between lessons is significantly easier to manage when the sun is shining, long may it continue.

You will be aware, through media coverage, that schools across the country are starting to see some Covid infections. Alongside of this are the typical start of term colds that we usually experience when students gather together again after the summer break. It is no surprise that when students exhibit any signs of being unwell parents are very cautious about diagnosing what this might be.

We have therefore, produced a simple guide which we hope is helpful in deciding what course of action should be taken with students and one's wider family. Please follow this link to access the guide - <http://www.imberhorne.co.uk/sites/default/files/COVID-19%20RELATED%20PUPIL%20ABSENCE.pdf>

If students or family members are unwell the current delays in gaining access to tests and then test results may mean they are isolating for a number of days. All subject areas in the school are currently setting up Google Classrooms to ensure easy access to work for students who may miss lessons. My colleagues will ensure that students know how to access these virtual classrooms in order to find and complete work if necessary. Whilst numbers not attending school currently remains very low we recognise that this might change and are therefore ensuring we are prepared for different eventualities.

I do not want to alarm you with these matters but feel it is best to share our thinking and planning at this stage. The government have given a commitment to keep schools open and we will work hard to ensure this is the case. Every time I chat to students about their recent experiences they all talk about how good it is to be back at school, with their friends, learning in the classroom. We know how valuable school is for our students.

I would also like to raise two other issues. Firstly, the matter of holiday requests. I understand the frustrations many families may have experienced losing planned holidays abroad over the summer. Foreign travel remains unpredictable with potential changes to quarantine rules imposed with very short notice. Please be aware that we cannot authorise holiday requests during term time and are mindful of the impact time away from school may have on students. Secondly, can I ask that you reinforce the importance of the use of face masks on buses with your sons and daughters (if they travel in this way). We note that some students remove their masks once their journey has started and teachers are no longer supervising them. Wearing masks on buses is for the wellbeing of everyone, whilst some may find it an inconvenience it is important that we all act together and take responsibility for protecting ourselves and others.

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Overwhelmingly our students are incredibly positive and managing the changes to their school day with great fortitude and good humour. Whilst we are mindful of social distancing and taking appropriate precautions, it is lovely to have these normal interactions and see happy smiling faces around the sites. The school feels full of life again.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown

Headteache