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Headteacher
Mrs. Heather Farrell B Ed (Hons) NPQH

29th January 2018

Dear parent/carers,

An important change to our sickness absence procedures for children

From time to time, children are sick either at home or at school. Unfortunately, it is not possible to distinguish between the causes and therefore it is essential that the same rule of exclusion applies in all cases of vomiting or diarrhoea. In the Public Health England document "Health Protection in Schools and other Childcare Facilities", guidance states that children who have suffered with vomiting and/or diarrhoea should remain off school for 48 hours after they last experience symptoms.

Vomiting and/or diarrhoea commonly affects children and staff and can be caused by a number of different germs, including viruses, parasites and bacteria. Infections can be easily spread from person to person by unwashed hands, especially in children.

If your child suffers vomiting and/or diarrhoea at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home immediately. **They must not return for 48 hours.** For example, if your child is sick/has diarrhoea at lunchtime on a Tuesday, they should not return to school until after lunch on Thursday, provided that they are free of symptoms. This '48 hour rule' also applies if your child vomits or has diarrhoea at home.

We appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience, but it is important that all parents/carers comply with this procedure in order to reduce the risk of infection for all children in school.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Farrell

Mrs Heather Farrell

Headteacher