



Bussage C. of E. (Aided) Primary School
The Ridgeway, Bussage, Stroud, Glos.
GL6 8FW

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18th September 2020,

Dear Parents,

Questionnaires:

Firstly I would like to thank those of you who have already taken the trouble to return the questionnaire on INTERNET access. I cannot tell you how important it is for us to capture this information for onward planning. I wanted to be clear that parents don't have to purchase Chrome Books to access work. I am simply considering putting in an order and wondered if any parents were interested. I understand, (unsurprisingly) that there is a world shortage of Chrome Books at the moment.

What do I do if?

We are understandably receiving a lot of calls from parents as we begin to enter the coughs and colds season. I appreciate parents wanting me to make a decision on whether their child comes to school. I am guided by the same information we all have, the only difference being that you know your child better than me.

- **Do they have a new continuous cough?** Well what is continuous? This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- **Do they have a high temperature?** This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (38 degrees C or above)
- **Do they have a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell?** This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal. I think this is a very tricky one for children to communicate.

If your child displays any of these symptoms you should get them tested. To do this you should Visit [nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test](https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test) or call 119. Whilst you await those results, your child should remain off school until the result is known. If negative, your child returns to school, if positive, you must inform the school to enable me to follow the **Confirmed Case Process**.

To keep us all safe it is vital that you follow this advice.

I recognise how tricky it is as we move into the autumn and winter months. Like you, I can only follow the guidance above. I do know that some of you have been trying to get tests this week and that the information we are receiving about a creaking system is reflected in the amount of time it is taking some of you to get these tests. I am also aware that the Education Secretary Mr Williamson announced that schools have testing kits. Well, that is true. What I have to tell you is that we have an extremely limited number of kits and the criteria for distribution is very specific and does **not** include giving them out to people who are unable to get through on the 119 number. I share your frustration!



Parent Parking

This morning, one of my members of staff nearly collided with a car being driven by a parent in the school drive. I have noticed (with the aid of our new CCTV camera recordings) that the number of parents using the school carpark has increased. I accept that new parents may not be aware of the rule that only parents with a medical condition and express permission from me can use the school carpark. This has always been the case. I don't want to start closing the gates again at the start and end of our staggered day. I only ask that parents respect this request. This is to maintain the safety of children and staff within our setting. Thank you for your cooperation.

Kind regards

A Ferguson
Head Teacher