

4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the school for the Spring Term 2023.

Earlier this week the government published new advice for families about the recent rise in cases of Covid and Strep A (Scarlet Fever) as well as other winter illnesses such as flu and norovirus. You can read that advice in full here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/back-to-school-advice-issued-amid-high-levels-of-flu-covid-19-and-scarlet-fever>

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

*It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.*

*Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.*

*Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.*

*Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.*

High levels of illness are likely to affect adults as well as children, and staff as well as families. We ask for your patience, understanding and support as we prepare for another challenging term for everyone.

With best wishes



Dr Stef Edwards  
Learn-AT Trust Leader



Blaby Stokes CE  
Primary School



Church Langton CE  
Primary School



Great Bowden CE  
Academy



Husbands Bosworth  
CE Primary School



Lubenham All Saints  
CE Primary School



Market Harborough  
CE Academy



Meadowdale  
Primary School



Red Hill Field  
Primary School



Ridgeway  
Primary School



South Kilworth CE  
Primary School



St Andrews CE  
Primary School