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Hygiene & Germs in School

We have been experiencing a particularly high level of sickness in school over the past couple of months and, as a result, have been reviewing everything that we do in school to see if there's any way that this can be reduced. Staff have received refresher training on the spread of germs and the necessity of good hygiene habits, and we have made several changes to our cleaning procedures to see if this will help make a difference.

While we are aware that there is no complete solution to the spread of illness within schools, we wish to do all that we can to control it as far as we possibly can. I have outlined, below, several matters that we also wish to bring to your attention.

Water/Water Bottles

We would request that all water bottles are brought into school pre-filled. This ensures that children are only using clean, filtered water at all times. Children should not fill water bottles from the taps in the classrooms.

Hand-Washing

The best (and simplest) thing that we can do to help reduce the spread of germs is to ensure that everyone washes their hands after using the toilet, and before handling food. It would be very helpful if you could take time to remind/show your child how to wash their hands thoroughly, as well as the importance of drying them. We will be reinforcing this in school.

Sickness

Given that children work and play in such close proximity with one another they will inevitably pass on germs quite easily. To help prevent this we have been issued guidance on infection control by the Public Health Agency, which outlines the recommended periods of time that children should be kept away from school following illness. This is the advice that we follow when issuing guidance to parents, and it recommends that children should not return to school for a period of **48 hours** from the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. The poster with the full range of guidance on various illnesses can be viewed on the school website, in the 'Parents' section.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely

M J Peacock
(Principal)