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Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We understand a number of parents and carers have decided to keep their children at home instead of them returning to school, due to the current COVID situation in our area, and nationally.

Whilst we fully appreciate your thoughts, comments and rights as parents to do so, we have this morning sought clarification from the Local Authority (Hampshire County Council) and I can now provide you with this clarification below.

If a school, class or bubble is currently open, any absences will be unauthorised unless your child meets one of the following criteria:

1. Your child is generally unwell and is poorly e.g. tummy bug, chicken pox and you have communicated this to us in the normal way
2. Your child is isolating due to their own COVID symptoms, there are symptoms within your household or if you have been told to isolate as part of the track and trace system, and you have communicated this to us in the normal way.
3. If your child is classed as Extremely Critically Vulnerable and this is supported by evidence (e.g. a letter from your medical practitioner) and this has been communicated to us in the normal way.

Therefore, the advice given from the local authority is as long as the school remains open and your child's bubble is at school, parents who choose to keep their children at home need to be aware that this absence will be unauthorised.

The school will continue to work with all families on an individual basis.

With regard to home learning, the advice we have been given by the local authority states that we can only provide online home learning or paper packs to those that are self-isolating due to COVID symptoms or positive test results, this is due to the school not being able to 'encourage non-attendance'.

This is the same for those children that are generally unwell. We cannot provide home learning for those children that are not at school, for example for tummy bugs, chicken pox or other illnesses.



Please can I make it clear that in the event of a partial school closure or a bubble closure, your child will then be set and expected to complete daily home learning and this will be communicated to you if this happens in the future.

This is an ever-changing picture, which is very challenging for all the staff and our Shamblehurst Community as a whole. We will be review this in line with any changes from Government or the Local authority.

Thank you for all your supportive comments.

Keep safe,

Anna Jones

