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8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Families,

This letter is to advise you that diarrhoea and vomiting illness, which is present in the community at this time of the year, is also circulating at school.

Because we have an unusually high number of cases we sought, and are subsequently following, advice from Public Health England (PHE) on managing cases. This advice includes increasing cleaning throughout the school, postponing group activities such as gatherings and rearranging visitors into Wallscourt Farm Academy. In order to facilitate this we are rescheduling our Family Learning Conferences which will now take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November. All appointments booked will be moved across to the new date, please email us at [info@wfa.clf.uk](mailto:info@wfa.clf.uk) if you need us to change your appointment and we will contact you to rebook. Choir club will also be cancelled on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Celebration Gatherings for the rest of the term will be cancelled and we will reschedule these in due course.

We would be very grateful for your support in helping us reduce the spread of the infection. If your child has symptoms of diarrhoea and or vomiting, please keep them at home until 48 hours after they are symptom free. During this time, they should not mix with other children outside the home or visit local venues. If your child is ill, you may find the following information from PHE useful:

#### What should you do if your child is unwell?

- Make sure they get lots of rest.
- Ensure they drink plenty of fluids, taking sips rather than gulps to avoid vomiting.
- Give infant Paracetamol or Ibuprofen, according to product instructions, to help keep their temperature down.
- If your child is unusually sleepy, won't take fluids or has other symptoms, such as blood in their diarrhoea, an unusual rash, headache, neck stiffness or difficulty breathing, ring NHS Direct (0845 4647), contact your GP or take your child to hospital.
- Please ring your child's nursery/ school and let them know that your child is ill and what symptoms they have.

#### How can you prevent the spread of these infections?

Hand washing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of both of these infections. This applies to the child who is ill and the person looking after them. Hands should always be washed, using liquid soap if possible:

- Before and after caring for your child
- After using the toilet
- Before eating or handling food
- After cleaning up a mess (vomit, faeces or urine)

Other ways of preventing the spread of infection are to:

- Keep a separate towel for family members who have symptoms
- Dispose promptly of used tissues and other items that your child may have coughed or sneezed on
- Wash soiled clothing, bed linen and towels in a washing machine. Use the hottest wash for that fabric
- Clean baths and washbasins thoroughly and disinfect after use
- If cleaning up diarrhoea or vomit, wash the surface with hot soapy water and disinfect before allowing to dry. If using bleach remember that it can remove the colour from fabrics and can burn the skin

Please keep your child away from other children and people that are particularly vulnerable, eg the elderly and those with chronic illnesses.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Kelham  
Principal