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Headteacher: Mrs Helen Watson

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Dear Parents/ Carers

Re: Viral gastroenteritis

We have identified that a number of children within school are off ill at the present time with symptoms of vomiting and/or diarrhoea. The numbers are larger than would normally be expected, so after discussion with the Health Protection Unit we are writing to parents. The symptoms are suggestive of viral gastroenteritis (also known as norovirus) and it is known that high levels of viral illness are currently circulating in the community.

If your child is affected with these symptoms we would like to reiterate to parents, carers and staff members that children should remain off school until they have been **symptom free for 48 hours**. This advice will be strictly adhered to for the general health and well-being of the whole school community.

The school has taken all the necessary precautions to control the infection as advised.

Effective personal hygiene helps to prevent gastroenteritis. In particular effective hand washing and ensuring your child does not put his/her hands into the mouth is crucial in preventing contraction of the virus and illness. We have been reinforcing this message with the children in school.

A public health leaflet is available from the school office, should you require further information.

We would like to thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

H. Watson

Mrs Helen Watson
Headteacher

