



Midsomer Norton Primary School

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To: All parents and staff

I am writing to let you know that a number of children have recently been absent from school with suspected norovirus, a common infection which causes symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting.

I have taken advice from Public Health England and they have offered the following advice:

- Norovirus is generally a mild infection and people usually recover fully within 2-3 days. No specific treatment is needed, but it is important to keep hydrated by drinking fluids as tolerated.
- Norovirus is highly infectious and spreads easily from person to person, especially in close knit communities such as schools, therefore, we are asking for your help to prevent further illness within the school by following the advice in the checklist below:
- Staff and pupils/children who develop symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting should stay away from school/nursery and other childcare settings such as childminders until they have been symptom free for at least 48 hours.
- Good hygiene is important to stop the spread of infection, especially hand washing, frequently and thoroughly with soap and water, particularly after using the toilet and before eating or handling food.
- Good hygiene in the home will also help prevent spread to other family members. If possible separate toilets and towels should be used. Toilets, including seats and handles, as well as door handles, wash basins and other frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- If symptoms do not resolve after 48 hours or if you are concerned please contact your GP by phone or contact the NHS non-emergency number 111.

We would like to thank you for your help with this. I have included a norovirus factsheet which you may also find useful and these are also available from the school office.

Yours sincerely

Alun Randell
Head Teacher

