



**PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL**  
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18 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

**Respiratory Syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) Virus, (RSV) or Covid-19**

Unfortunately, we are now approaching the cold season which does bring about coughs and sore throats. Please can we ask that parents are mindful as the symptoms RSV are very similar to Covid-19. (Please see the attached poster.)

We have a lot of poorly children at the moment. They are off with various illnesses, coughs, colds, tummy problems etc and we really need parents to be mindful that perhaps their child is displaying slightly different symptoms to the normal cold and that getting a Lateral Flow or a PCR test might be prudent. Unfortunately, as you are aware, Covid-19 is still prevalent in the area and we now probably all know someone who, unfortunately, has contracted the virus and we are starting to see more cases in school. Please be assured that we are working hard to keep everyone safe without compromising the children's learning or school experience.

We are really trying not to send everyone who coughs occasionally home as that would be half the school and we fully appreciate that not every cough is Covid related, but if we can all work together with consistent testing in the home and being mindful of contacts etc this will really help everyone. All staff members who show signs of RSV take daily Lateral Flow Tests, in addition to the normal twice weekly testing that is already undertaken.

Whilst regular lateral flow testing of infant aged children is not recommended, they can prove helpful in the first instance if you are concerned that your child might have Covid-19. I am aware that some of our parents do this already and this is in fact how positive cases have been identified.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L A de Carteret  
**Headteacher**

# RSV OR COVID-19?

Symptoms of Covid-19 are very similar to RSV.  
Please speak to your local pharmacist, GP or 111 if you have any concerns



Symptom	RSV?	Covid-19?
COUGH	✓	✓
SORE THROAT	✓	✓
RUNNY OR STUFFY NOSE	✓	✓
FEVER	✓	✓
SHORTNESS OF BREATH	✓	✓
LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL	✗	✓
DIARRHOEA / VOMITING	✗	✓
SKIN RASHES	✗	✓
RED, SWOLLEN EYES	✗	✓
ONSET	2-6 DAYS AFTER CONTACT	AROUND 5 DAYS AFTER CONTACT BUT RANGE FROM 2-14 DAYS
SNEEZING / WHEEZING	✓	