



Headmaster:
J.P. Standen, B.A. (Hons)

THE CRYPT SCHOOL

A Specialist Science School



Podsmead Road, Gloucester. GL2 5AE
Telephone: (01452) 530291
Facsimile: (01452) 530292
email: office@thecryptschool.org.uk
web: www.cryptschool.org

6th July, 2009

Dear Parents,

Swine Flu outbreak - update, July 2009

As you will be aware there are now in excess of 6000 confirmed cases of Swine Flu nationally, and the first cases have been appearing in Gloucestershire. This weekend one of our Year 8 pupils was diagnosed with suspected Swine flu and has been advised to remain in isolation at home. We have notified the Local Authority and Health Protection Agency. At this point we would reiterate the Public Health Consultant's guidance that unless children are showing symptoms they should **not** be kept off school.

However, increasingly more and more of us are likely to have had contact with someone who is subsequently confirmed as having the virus, and there is now no requirement to stay away from work or school, unless we are showing symptoms. An exception might be children who have pre-existing medical conditions, notably Heart and Lung conditions, or immune system conditions, which put them more at risk from infection. In such a case parents may wish to liaise with the school about their child's attendance.

As before please keep us informed if your child develops symptoms, in which case they should be kept at home, and in isolation. The Health Protection Agency will advise us about the issue of anti-virals, but it seems that the early strategy of large scale issue has been changed.

Health Guidance may be obtained from the following websites :

Health Protection Agency

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/default.htm

Department of Health

www.dh.gov.uk/pandemicflu

www.nhs.uk

There has been coverage in the Press and in Parliament of families intending to hold "Swine Flu Parties" to expose their children to it while it is in a mild form. Health professionals are advising strongly against this practise for a number of reasons :

- Whilst most people make a full recovery from Swine Flu at present, any form of flu is an unpleasant illness with symptoms that are more severe than a normal cold.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

- There is always the chance that a child may have an underlying illness that could make contracting Swine Flu more complicated and potentially dangerous.
- There is no guarantee that if the current strain mutates, that everyone previously exposed would be automatically immune.
- Holding such gatherings will speed the spread of the virus and potentially put more vulnerable people at risk and increase the chances of the virus mutating.

We are keen to ensure that our parent contact details are as up to date as possible, and to that end we will be issuing our usual form for checking and amending, this term, rather than wait until September, by which time the Flu situation may have changed radically. ***We would ask you to return the form by post to arrive not later than Tuesday 14th July.***

Meantime we are all urged to maintain the heightened level of personal hygiene and cleanliness already put in place. Please assist us in this educational aspect of the current health strategy to minimise the impact of the outbreak.

May I wish you all an enjoyable and restful summer break, and to our students a healthy return to their studies in September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. R. Spear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

W R Spear
Deputy Headmaster