



MARVELS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carers

In the past weeks we have had a number of children at school unwell with symptoms of a viral illness. The symptoms the children have are consistent with viral gastroenteritis. Although not confirmed, this is usually caused by Norovirus, a frequent cause of vomiting and diarrhoea in the community normally during the winter months.

We have received the following advice from the South East London Health Protection Agency:

The most common symptom is vomiting. Diarrhoea tends to be short-lived and less severe than with other causes of gastroenteritis. Other symptoms include nausea, abdominal cramp, headache, muscle aches, chills and fever. The illness is usually mild in nature and gets better without antibiotics, which are not appropriate for viral illnesses. Symptoms usually last between one and three days.

Norovirus is easily spread from person to person by faecal-oral route and by vomiting, environmental contamination and subsequent indirect person to person spread.

An affected child or member of staff should stay away from school for **48 hours after the vomiting and/or diarrhoea have stopped.**

We would like to emphasise the need for good hand hygiene and the supervision of this in younger children. Hands should be washed with soap and water after contact with an affected person or environment.

If you have any further queries please contact the South East London Health Protection Unit on 020 3764 0804

Yours faithfully

Mr E Dove
Headteacher