

Protecting and improving the nation's health

PHE North East Health Protection Team 2nd Floor, Citygate Gallowgate Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4WH T +44 (0)300 303 8596 Option 1 F +44 (0)191 221 2584 www.gov.uk/phe

23rd September 2019

Dear parent/guardian,

Re: Illness in school

We have been made aware that a number of children attending Mortimer Primary School have been reported absent with symptoms including headache and fever. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some further information and advice.

At this time of year when children return to school it is not uncommon for some infectious illnesses to circulate. The spread of most infectious diseases is reduced through good hand hygiene. Please encourage your child to wash their hands frequently with warm water and soap, particularly after using the toilet, after using a tissue to catch a cough or sneeze, and before eating.

Your child should not attend school if they are unwell and should only return once they have recovered. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms or need further advice on how to manage an illness please consult your GP or NHS 111 in the normal way.

If you would like to discuss any of the information in this letter further, please contact my team on 0300 303 8596 (option 1).

Yours sincerely

Dr Gayle Dolan

Consultant in Health Protection