



25th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Regular Testing of School Staff

Starting this week, we will be introducing Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) twice a week for all staff who wish to have them. This is a government initiative and the aim is to find any staff members who are Covid-19 positive and asymptomatic (so showing no symptoms). Identifying these members of staff and then asking both them, and their close contacts, to isolate for 10 days, is an important step in stopping the virus from spreading rapidly and affecting the wider school and community.

The tests are voluntary and so we cannot insist that staff members take the tests. However, they have been offered to all staff and many have volunteered to take them. The tests will start this week and are usually taken in the morning. They will be taken on a rota basis with the following staff taking their tests on the following days over the next three weeks:

Schedule for Testing Staff

Day	Monday	Tuesday (evening)	Wednesday (evening)	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday (evening)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday (evening)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
Date	25 th Jan	26 th Jan	27 th Jan	28 th Jan	29 th Jan	30 th Jan	31 st Jan	1 st Feb	2 nd Feb	3 rd Feb	4 th Feb	5 th Feb	6 th Feb	7 th Feb	8 th Feb	9 th Feb	10 th Feb	11 th Feb	12 th Feb	13 th Feb	14 th Feb	
Year 1 and 2 Staff																						
Pre-School Staff																						
Senior Leadership Team																						
Breakfast/After School Club Staff																						
Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Staff																						
Other Staff																						

There are two possible outcomes of the tests – a positive or negative result.

What happens if the test result is negative?

If the test result is negative, the staff member will complete the on-line government tracker and then attend work as normal. **You will not be informed.**



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The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

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What happens if the test result is positive?

If the test result is positive, the staff member will let the school know asap and then complete the on-line government tracker. They will then book themselves a further PCR test (these are the more accurate tests arranged through the walk in centres, but results can take between 24 hours and several days to be returned). The school will inform the DFE and we will work together to identify any close contacts of the member of staff who need to isolate. The school will then contact these people and let them know that they need to start a 10-day isolation period. Only if the PCR test then comes back negative, can the member of staff and all isolating contacts stop their 10-day isolation period and return to school. If the PCR test confirms the positive, they cannot return to school until the 10 days is up. **You will be informed if your child is affected by this result.**

What does this mean for parents?

The benefits of this new routine are that we will be better able to identify positive cases and prevent the virus from potentially spreading through the school and then the community. The downside to this routine is that we are likely to have a positive test result early one morning meaning that a bubble will need to close and isolate with very short warning. For working parents especially, we understand that this could cause some frustration and great inconvenience and apologise in advance for this. **So that you can be contacted as early as possible and avoid an unnecessary trip to school, it is vital that the school has your up to date contact details. Please let the office know if these have changed or if you have not been receiving communication from the school.**

The testing is a government initiative and we must do our part to try and keep infection rates low, even if this means the possibility of regular disruption to bubbles in school.

If a bubble does close at short notice, all lessons will automatically go online with the teacher teaching from home. It is vital that your child continues to access their learning. If you are unable to attend on-line learning please inform the school as you would normally do for non-attendance.

If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Best wishes,

Rebecca Mitchell

Mrs R Mitchell
Head of School