

Tuesday 19th January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

New Asymptomatic Testing for All Staff

As you may have heard in the media, the Lateral Flow Device Testing (LFD) is being made available to all primary school staff who consent to take part within the next two weeks (this will include all of our staff regardless of role from Nursery through to Wrap Around Care). This will mean that all staff will be tested twice weekly for Covid19. This test is designed to pick up people who are asymptomatic and carry the virus without showing any sign.

We are currently waiting for our delivery of our testing kits and undergoing training on the whole process. However, as a school we will be beginning this within the next fortnight.

We wanted to keep you informed about this new development, as although we are optimistic about it and see this as a good thing, we are aware that this might mean we have an increase in positive Covid19 tests at school for a while, resulting in the closing of bubbles. However, the benefit is that having this information will help the national fight to halt the spread of this virus and will give us as a school the chance to prevent any unnecessary spreading. We are hoping that we will not have a large number of asymptomatic cases, as we feel we would have more sign of the virus within our school amongst staff, but only time will tell.

We have tried to plan our testing programme to have minimal impact on our families, so we are going for a **Monday morning**, as no-one in the bubble had contact with each other 48 hours before that time, and therefore this test would not result in a bubble closure regardless of outcome. The positive member of staff would obviously have to isolate. Our next test will be conducted on a **Wednesday evening** and we will commit to sharing the news about any necessary bubble closure that same evening. This would not be until about 21:00 due to the timings of the test.

We are learning about this testing all of the time at the moment, but I hope you will all agree that this is a positive step in the fight against this virus and perhaps one step closer to us gaining some form of normality back to our daily lives.

Thank you as always for your kindness and patience.

Yours sincerely,

SCox

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