

25th January 2021

Dear parents/ carers

You may be aware that, from this week, 25th January, all school staff have been asked by the Department for Education (DfE), to take a lateral flow test (LFT) twice weekly, in order to monitor cases of Covid 19 in schools, and to support us to stay open and our communities to stay safe.

Up to one in three people who have the virus have it without symptoms (they are asymptomatic) so could be spreading the disease unknowingly. The tests will be carried out twice weekly so that any member of staff who may be carrying the virus can be identified and asked to isolate in order to control the spread.

Staff at our school will be asked to test each Sunday and Wednesday. Should a member of staff have a positive result, they will need to self-isolate. They will then have to go to a test centre to have a PCR test in order to confirm the result. If this is also positive the bubble which they are part of will close up to a ten-day period.

This obviously has implications for all of our families. If your child has a place in school, we may need to ask you to keep your child at home at short notice. We therefore ask that you have short-notice childcare options in place. We will endeavour to get a message of closure to you as soon as we can.

I do understand that this may well be disruptive for you and may be difficult to manage, but I sincerely hope that this development will help us to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmission.

We are all very much looking forward to the day when we can welcome all our pupils back in school and we can enjoy being together again. Let us hope that this testing regime makes this happen a little sooner.

Best wishes

Mr Barron