



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Saturday 23rd January 2021

Dear Parents,

Re: Asymptomatic testing for staff working in primary schools

The Government have issued all primary school staff with Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) which detects if someone has Covid-19 but is unaware as they have no symptoms. This is a crucial part of the Government's plan to stop the spread of the virus.

I wanted you to be aware that this is commencing next week as there may be implications for children attending school in our childcare provision. There will be a higher chance that bubbles may have to be closed or partially closed than previously as 1 in 3 people are asymptomatic.

It is a voluntary scheme, with staff who have 'opted in' taking the self-administered test at home twice a week. Results are reported to Test and Trace, as well as the school. If the lateral flow test is positive, or the member of staff has two 'void' tests, they must book a PCR test (the normal ones at test centres, like at Wood Green). In the meantime, we have to still identify the close contacts and tell them to isolate, until either a) the PCR comes back negative, then the close contacts can come back to school and end isolation or b) the PCR is positive then we will inform the close contacts they need to isolate for the full 10 days. The PCR is the gold standard and the final say.

On a practical note, this means that we could be sending texts to families in the evenings (it will usually be a Sunday and Wednesday) to inform you that your child has been identified as a close contact and needs to isolate until further notice. We will then contact you again once the PCR test result is back. We have opted to carry out the LFD tests in the evening, as opposed to the mornings, as this at least gives everyone a bit longer to re-organise plans.

I appreciate that this may be problematic for families, however, stopping the spread of the virus is essential.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries.

Keep safe,

Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
Head Teacher



Cherwell

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