

Pensilva Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Teresa Clinick



26th January 2021

Dear Parents /Carers,

I am writing today to inform you that all staff at Pensilva Primary School will begin a Lateral Flow Testing programme at school this week. This is part of the government initiative to try to identify those who may be asymptomatic Covid-19 carriers. It is operational in secondary schools already and is being rolled out to primary schools from tomorrow. These tests will only be carried out by staff (at home) NOT children. It is a voluntary programme but all staff have chosen to participate at this stage.

Testing will be carried out twice a week and can identify Covid-19 within 30 minutes of the test being undertaken. Each test result is then reported to the NHS and to school. We will take immediate action to protect the children and other staff if a test result comes back positive. The test is not 100% accurate so we cannot totally guarantee that a carrier will be identified, however, it is a step in the right direction.

In the event of staff testing positive, below are the measures we will take:

- The member of staff will isolate and will book a PCR test to confirm the outcome of the initial test.
- Other staff who have had contact with the member of staff within 48 hours will isolate.
- The 'bubble' will close immediately.
- During that day we will seek further Government advice and then update you, as soon as we are able, regarding when and how the 'bubble' will reopen.
- When we are advised that it is safe to do so, the 'bubble' will reopen and provision will continue.

For confidentiality reasons, we will not be able to share with you the names of individual members of staff or their test results. In line with Government guidance, if a PCR Test (considered the most accurate method of detecting Covid) returns a positive as well, the 10-day isolation period is implemented; if the PCR returns negative, the member of staff is cleared to return to work.

I appreciate that this may cause challenges for you if your child is one of those attending school currently. Therefore, I wish to make you aware that there may be a requirement to change our plans for the day at very short notice, should there be a need to shut one or more of our bubbles.



This is quite a new step to take for the school and I thank you for your continued support. This testing means that we may now be able to identify asymptomatic staff who would not have been identified otherwise. We are pleased to be able to help in the efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to reduce the pressure on the NHS.

As ever, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

Teresa Clinick
Headteacher