



Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you are well and managing through this very challenging time. Teachers will be in regular contact with all our families and our remote offer is now in place. Individual teachers will explain the daily learning for children at home and have provided resources to support you. However, we do appreciate that this is a particularly challenging time for our families and if you do require any further support, resources or activity based programmes please do let us know; we will be happy to deliver individual resources to your homes if required.

For the children accessing school, normal class routines and lessons will continue although we will not be accessing learning in the community throughout this lockdown period. Please do contact the school if you are struggling with learning from home and you would like your child to access the school. We will do our best to accommodate as many pupils as possible whilst maintaining safety and keeping pupil/staff numbers reduced- limiting the spread of the virus.

Following government guidance for secondary schools, I am pleased to say that we have now been able to set up our rapid testing system. We will now be testing staff and secondary school pupils on a weekly basis through the lateral flow testing:

**Lateral Flow Tests.** The government has advised that to produce the most accurate test outcomes, **secondary age pupils** should initially be tested twice within a period of 3-5 days on their return to school and weekly after this. The lateral flow test involves students self-administering a swab to their back of their throat and their nose. The swab will then be handled by staff who will undertake the necessary processing. Tests will take in the region of 30 minutes to provide a positive or negative result. Please find attached an information leaflet. Students who provide a positive test result will be isolated within school until arrangements can be made for them to be collected by their parents from the school. The school will only inform parents if the result of their child's lateral flow test is positive. The school will not contact parents regarding negative results. For the pupils who are unable to take the test independently, their test will be administered by a member of the staff team if possible. If you would like to discuss this further please contact the school.

**Consent forms.** Testing of students can only be done if parents have completed a consent form. I would strongly encourage all parents to consent to their children being tested in school. Please complete the attached consent form at your earliest convenience. Consent forms will also go home in bags for secondary school pupils currently accessing the school.

Please note: if parents do not give consent for their child to be tested in school or fail to complete the consent form, then if their child is identified as having been a close contact of someone who contracts Covid-19, he/she will be required to stay at home for a period of 10 days and will need to be supervised by parents, accessing school work online.

I would like to reiterate that we are here to help and support all of our families throughout this challenging time. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need any support, advice or have any questions or concerns.

Take care

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Carpenter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ruth Carpenter