

26th January, 2021
Ref: 00066



COVID Rapid Result Testing – STAFF ONLY

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have heard in the media that the government are now making rapid-result coronavirus tests available **to all staff** in primary schools.

Approximately 1 in 3 individuals are asymptomatic when they contract COVID-19 and it is believed that the use of regular rapid-result tests (commonly referred to as LFD tests) amongst staff will help to identify those who may be positive for COVID-19 and are still infectious yet are asymptomatic.

All staff are eligible for weekly routine testing and will be provided with lateral flow tests to complete twice a week at home. Results of these tests will be available 30 minutes after taking the test. In all cases, testing is voluntary, however, the government is strongly encouraging those eligible for testing to participate to reduce the risk of transmission in schools.

If a member of staff tests positive for coronavirus following a rapid test, they will be asked to immediately isolate and book a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. These are the tests available at the testing sites. The member of staff will continue to isolate until the results of the PCR test are confirmed, and the school will follow guidance from the Department for Education on any close contacts that may also need to isolate.

Over the past week, we have been closely with our academy trust, DDAT, to undertake planning, risk assessment and training of all staff involved before we start. Our test kits have arrived in school today and we will be distributing them to staff members over the coming days.

Once again, please can I stress that **only tests are being made available to staff – no child in our care will be issued with a rapid-result Covid test.**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Ms. K Leach Headteacher

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ST. CHAD'S CofE NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL
Gordon Road, Derby DE23 6WR
Tele: 01332 345997
E-mail: admin@stchads.derby.sch.uk
Headteacher: Ms. K Leach

DDAT
Derby Diocesan Academy Trust

