



20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Next week we are due to start twice weekly lateral flow device testing for all staff in line with government guidelines.

Staff will be able to perform these tests at home, twice a week and obtain the result within 30 minutes. The purpose of this testing is to pick up any staff in school who are asymptomatic (i.e. have Covid but are displaying none of the symptoms). If any member of staff tests positive with these tests, they have to self-isolate and have the result confirmed by the PCR test - which will take a day or two.

There is therefore the possibility that positive results may occur and I would then obviously have to instruct close contacts to self-isolate.

If the PCR test confirms a positive case, then the member of staff and close contacts continue to self-isolate for 10 days. If however the PCR tests come back as negative everyone can return to school and I would inform you accordingly.

I obviously hope that we don't get an increase in positive cases, but felt that you should be aware that this testing starts on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January. It remains imperative that the system of controls currently in place continues to be rigorously applied to enable the safest possible environment. The testing programme is an important addition to supporting leaders to maintain the continuity of education through the pandemic.

Yours sincerely

A H Simpson  
Headteacher