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21st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 mass asymptomatic testing for staff.

I am writing to provide information on our intentions around the mass asymptomatic testing programme that primary schools across the country have been invited to start from Monday 25th January.

Every primary school in England will have access to rapid coronavirus testing (known as 'lateral flow tests') from 25th January to help keep staff and students as safe as possible and in education and reduce further transmission of the virus.

Simple and quick tests using antigen Lateral Flow Devices (LFD), enable the rapid testing of staff, from their own home, without the need for a laboratory.

We are positive about the asymptomatic testing of staff and its potential to reduce the spread of the virus, particularly since it is widely recognised that up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms and could be carrying it unknowingly.

Staff will be offered two 'lateral flow tests' a week, starting on January 25th on an on-going weekly basis.

At Wheatfields, should a member of staff in a bubble receive a positive test result, guidance will be followed and it may be necessary for a bubble to close immediately.

If any parent would like further information about this plan, please contact the school office in the first instance. We are only now receiving the training for this testing and we are working hard to ensure risk assessments are in place before Monday.

Kind regards

Theresa Thornton
Headteacher

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Wheatfields Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

