09th March 2021

**Lateral Flow Covid Testing for Households.**

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been lovely to see all the pupils back into school yesterday. Most pupils very quickly settled into their familiar routines and were very happy to be back.

The government, and us, are very committed to making sure our pupils can now all stay in school for the rest of this school year. One of the many strategies to support this is the use of lateral flow device tests to identify any asymptomatic cases quickly. Currently staff are tested twice a week using a home test kit. High school pupils will also be offered the opportunity to be tested at home by their parents twice a week.

The third group who are eligible for home testing are the families and households of anyone who is associated with schools. This includes parents and families of any school age pupils.

This is of course entirely voluntary but it is another tool in our tool box of reducing the risk of Covid being brought into school or transmission within school.

*“Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.*

*Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are*[*different ways*](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)*for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:*

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| * *through your employer, if they offer testing to employees*
* *by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests*
* *by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most*
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*If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.”*

If you wish to take up this offer then the link to order your tests is

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests?fbclid=IwAR2Sb3bCuT59r7kfbn_r-TmyjJ7ba9sEJEZLHJVmp0bjkLcja0WAoRGoCaQ>

Kind regards



Alison Randall

Headteacher