



Our Ref: MLD/GJW

21<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Lateral Coronavirus testing in school**

In addition to recent communication from the school detailing the staggered return in January 2021, I write to outline the school's plans for rolling-out serial Coronavirus testing, commonly known as 'lateral flow tests', in the new year. It is hoped that, along with the plethora of other protective measures that the school is taking, these tests will help pupils and staff to remain in school safely during the Spring term. Please be advised that the test is voluntary, but the government encourage everyone to take it, and that tests are offered *free of charge*.

Providing that the school receives its promised testing kits, PPE, and full training and guidance, we are hopeful that our testing facility will be set up from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, which will be facilitated by a number of school staff and parental volunteers. The school extends sincere gratitude to all those who have volunteered to assist with this programme at the start of term; without you, this would not be possible.

Attached to this email is an informative leaflet regarding the lateral flow tests. These are quick and easy to administer, using a swab of your child's nose and throat. Pupils will be supervised (and supported if necessary) during the swap process. Results of the test take approximately half an hour from testing to return, and will be shared directly with pupils in the first instance, and parents if the result is positive. The government has informed the school that during studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, lateral flow tests were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity).

Please complete the survey and consent statement if you are happy for your child to participate in testing, by **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021**. Please complete one link and consent **per child**:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T2TQDRV>

(Cont...)



## FAQs

### What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating pupils who test positive will be informed of their results individually and parents will also be informed via telephone call where the result is positive. Pupils will then need to take a further PCR test (similar to those done in local testing sites) on the same day. The school will provide this test kit which is to be performed at home, or alternatively a PCR test can be booked at a local testing centre by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. During the time whilst awaiting test results, the pupil and household should self-isolate as per guidance.

### What happens if the test is negative?

If your child's test result is negative, they will either remain in school if they are part of the group of pupils returning, and resume their activities as normal, or return home with no further action required. Parents/carers will not be informed directly if the test result is negative. Pupils may need to repeat the test if the first result was invalid or void for some reason.

### What if a close contact at school tests positive?

Close contacts are able to return to school and continue their education, if they agree to be tested once a day, for seven days (and if the test is negative). If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per national guidelines.

### What if my child develops symptoms?

The National Secondary school testing programme is for pupils without symptoms (known as being asymptomatic). If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Thank you for your continued support of the school during the Coronavirus pandemic. The school hopes that this additional protection measure will help support the school community in maintaining pupil and staff safety at all times. Should you have any questions regarding the testing process, please do not hesitate to contact the school office on [office@healing-school.co.uk](mailto:office@healing-school.co.uk). The school is available to answer queries until 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020, and from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 thereafter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M. Dewland  
Principal