Monday 8th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now been informed by the Dfe that all families with school aged children (including primary age children) within their household or support bubble are eligible to access Rapid Flow Tests for regular testing.

The Dfe states ‘*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:*

|  |
| --- |
| * *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* |

*If you have any queries about the tests please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.*

*Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.*

*Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.*

To find your nearest test site please follow this link <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/findatestcenter.html>

There is also a testing centre that has opened in Wolverton which maybe more local for some. Please find more details here: <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/news/covid-19-rapid-test-centre-opens-pendeford-library>

This is positive news for primary schools as another layer of protection for all members of the family and support bubbles to pick up asymptomatic COVID cases promptly. Please be advised that if you have recently tested positive for COVID, a Lateral Flow Test (LFD) could test positive for up to 90 days therefore should not be used until this time period has lapsed.

**What do I do if my LFD is positive?**

If your test shows a positive result, you and your household and support bubble must begin isolation as per the Public Health guidelines. You will then need to book in for a PCR test to confirm the positive result.

If you get a negative result on a PCR, you and your entire household can stop self-isolating immediately provided no one is symptomatic.

As a school, we hope that as many families as possible will take up this offer of regular testing within households to keep our school community as safe as possible.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarbutts