

Letter Home January 27<sup>th</sup> 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Lateral Flow Tests have now been made available for regular staff testing in primary schools and this will start this week. The DfE do NOT have plans at this time for the testing of primary school children.

We welcome the introduction of rapid testing for our staff as we strive to make our school as safe as possible for everyone. These tests will take place twice weekly to reduce the likelihood of asymptomatic staff attending school. As before, if a member of staff exhibits any Covid symptoms they will not attend school and will start self-isolation, this has not changed.

If a member of staff tests positive following testing using a Lateral Flow Test, they then need to have this confirmed by taking a PCR test (the usual drive through tests which can take 1-3 days for results to be released). Because the safety of our school community is extremely important to us and because we know that, within a class bubble, social distancing between all pupils and staff is hard to maintain at every point in the day, we would temporarily close your child's class bubble if a staff member were to test positive in a Lateral Flow Test. We would wait for the result to be confirmed by a PCR test. If the PCR test comes back negative, we would reopen the bubble immediately, but, if the result is positive, we would initiate the 10 day bubble closure.

I am sure that you will share the relief that staff will now be tested regularly. Please ensure that your child is not mixing with other households outside of school, it is the only way to keep infection rates on a downward trend. Our thanks again for your continued support of school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Fletcher