

Lateral Flow Testing for school staff

Sent By: Mrs Jane Jefferies

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The Department for Education has recently announced that it will start a programme of voluntary, asymptomatic Covid-19 testing in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools. The testing, using Lateral Flow Devices, is scheduled to start nationally during this week

Along with the other protective measures being taken, testing will allow staff members and pupils to work in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms and so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, the government aim to reduce the spread in schools.

We have been diligent in our efforts to create and maintain safe working practices and are pleased that we have not, to date, had to close any of the class teams/bubbles. However, this testing may reveal asymptomatic infection and we will follow our procedures as outlined in our Risk Assessment, with every likelihood that teams/bubbles will have to close, and may have to do so at short notice. I send you this information so that you can be prepared should this event occur.

Staff will be testing themselves twice a week. The guidance is that the testing should be done first thing in the morning. However, the government recognise that leaving testing that late and at the start of the school day could be a logistical nightmare should parents need to be told of a closure, and so most schools, I believe, are testing the evening before. Should a member of staff test positive and we have to close a team, we will let you know by 9:30pm the night before. Please do be alert to the fact that there may be a ParentMail message or an email informing you of this decision. Most members of staff will be testing themselves on Sunday or Wednesday evenings – but a message may come at any time.

At Marcham CE Primary School we take the responsibility of the health, safety and welfare of our whole community seriously and thank you for your understanding and efforts to help us to do so.