



# **Singleton Church of England Primary School**

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## COVID Testing in Schools

Dear Parents,

My apologies that letters regarding the COVID situation are coming thick and fast at the moment. It seems daily we are being given new instructions and expectations. As many of you may well be aware before Christmas secondary schools had to make preparations for introducing 'Lateral Flow Testing' in schools. The intention with this was to test pupils and staff. At that stage there was no indication that this type of testing would be extended to primary schools. In the past week the situation has changed and primary schools have been sent a directive that following the launch of rapid asymptomatic coronavirus testing in secondary schools, staff in primary schools are also being offered the opportunity to take part in regular asymptomatic testing.

Primary Schools are currently being supplied with lateral flow device test kits to self-swab. On line training is also being provided to staff at this time. Testing is not mandatory for staff and staff do not need to provide proof of a negative test result to attend school in person, although participation in testing is strongly encouraged.

Staff that decide to participate will be asked to take their test kits home and carry out the test twice a week. In our school our testing days will be Monday and Thursday evenings. The LFD test will give a result in around 30 minutes. Staff must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff should also share their result with their school to help with contact tracing.

Staff with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result. Staff with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school or nursery and use protective measures. The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines. Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus.

Please note that these tests are for staff only, not for the children.

The purpose of writing this letter is to outline that for staff that choose to be tested twice weekly this will start at some point next week, once staff training has been delivered. This potentially will have implications for children in school if staff are identified as asymptomatic and have to self-isolate. We have indicated to you on many occasions that as a small school our biggest challenge at this time is staffing the individual bubbles. With such high numbers in school at the moment we are stretched to capacity trying to facilitate remote education, in house learning, covering breaks, dinners and kids club all in the individual bubbles. If staff do have to self-isolate it is highly likely that current in house bubbles may be closed and children will not be able to attend school at this time.

**We will try to keep you updated and communicate with you as quickly as possible if the situation arises where we have to completely close a bubble.**

**Kind regards**

**The Senior Management Team**