

**ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
(Aided) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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'Learning for life with God as our guide'

27th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

Covid-19 Testing

Staff, pupils and family members should continue to use the existing protocols with regards seeking a Covid-19 test if they have any of the three recognised symptoms of Covid-19 – a high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change in taste/smell.

As you already know, if a pupil or staff member within a bubble receives a positive Covid-19 test we will undertake contact tracing and, if necessary, close the bubble so all members can undertake the required period of isolation. Similarly, any pupil or member of staff who has someone in their household with symptoms or a positive test result will not attend school until a period of isolation has been completed.

Please continue to keep the school updated regarding Covid-19 test results whether or not your child is currently in attendance. If your child is in attendance you must notify us immediately, by telephone to the school office during working hours and by email to the office@stmarysprimary.net account out of hours.

Staff Asymptomatic Testing

The Department for Education has requested that all staff in primary schools undertake regular (twice weekly) asymptomatic Covid-19 testing.

It is widely recognised that 1 in 3 people carry the virus without displaying symptoms therefore this programme of testing is being introduced to help identify these people so they can isolate at home.

Starting this week staff are required, twice a week, to undertake a quick result Lateral Flow Test in the morning before coming to work. If a member of staff tests positive the school will undertake contact tracing and will most likely have to close the bubble(s) the staff member works in. You will appreciate, therefore, that, if your child is attending school, you may receive very short notice of your child's bubble being closed and your child having to isolate for the required period. Parent/carers will be notified by text and email before school or may be turned away at the school gate, depending on when the information regarding the positive test result comes in and the contact tracing is completed.

If the bubble is able to remain open there will be an impact on other staff who will be required to cover the bubble; this will have a knock-on effect on daily email contact with parents of children who are working at home and telephone calls – families concerned will be notified if this is the case.

Please be aware also that gaps may develop in other areas of the school staff team – office, site, lunch etc. We are already feeling the impact of staff absence so I ask that you bear with us as we move into this next phase.

Thank you for your attention to this information.

Yours sincerely

H Comfort
Executive Headteacher



Canterbury Diocesan
Board of Education