

ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Jenkins
Tel: 01454 866523
E-Mail: admin@stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk
Website: <http://www.stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk/>
Twitter: @StChadsPrimSch

Cranham Drive
Patchway
South Glos
BS34 6AQ

Friday 22nd January 2021

Re: Staff testing

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. Once again, I would like to thank you for everything you are doing during such challenging times and remind you that as a school, we are here to support you. Please contact us if you need anything.

As a school, the safety of our community remains of utmost importance. From Monday 25th January, staff will be testing using lateral flow test kits provided by the government to identify anyone who is asymptomatic (data shows that a third of the population can be asymptomatic regarding Covid-19). Whilst this is an excellent addition to our risk assessment to ensure that we further limit the spread of the virus, as a school, we will be required to act very quickly and at very short notice on the outcome of the test.

If a staff member is identified as positive using a lateral flow test, they will be required to isolate and take a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test at one of the test centres; at this point, we will be advised by public health and it is likely that we will be asked to close the bubble the staff member is linked to and ask that bubble to isolate until we receive the official outcome from the PCR test. Once the PCR test result has been confirmed, we would then be in a position to review whether the bubble needs to remain isolating or return to school.

I am writing as this may be at short notice to parents and whilst I recognise that this will be very inconvenient for parents juggling work and other priorities, it is an absolute requirement to limit transmission of the virus and keep everyone safe. Following the outcome of any positive lateral flow test, we will notify you as quickly as we possibly can but it may be the same morning that children are coming to school so please check messages before you leave for school drop off. Staff will be testing on a Monday and Thursday each week from now on. Of course, if staff or pupils develop symptoms, they will be required to go straight for a PCR test so closure of bubbles may occur on other days as they have done previously depending on the outcome of the test.

I am sorry to add further uncertainty to the current situation. Hopefully, this will add further reassurances that we are doing all we can to protect the community and save lives.

Stay safe.

Kind regards,

Steph Jenkins
Headteacher



