



Rawmarsh Community School



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MTN/JRO

12th March 2021

Dear Parent

As we come to the end of our first week since the full reopening of the school, I felt it would be helpful to send out information relating to our plans for home testing and our second, onsite testing of students, that will commence after the Easter break.

I want to thank all parents for your support during our first round of on-site testing which began on Wednesday 24th February. Working with our qualified testers organised through Wickersley Partnership Trust, we were able to offer and administer tests to the vast majority of students. This was a successful programme and a very important part of our risk-assessment, in place to prioritise student and staff safety and well-being.

Asymptomatic home testing update

On Monday, all students will receive two boxes, comprising 6 testing kits, for use at home as part of the government's asymptomatic testing programme. Testing at home should take place twice weekly in line with government advice and guidance and should continue over the Easter break, for which students will receive additional testing kits. The link below is a practical guide video to support parents / carers and children in using the lateral flow tests.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3GAwK2ENjU>

If you require support regarding the home testing programme, please let us know so we can put plans in place.

All lateral flow tests result should be logged through the following government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

There is no requirement for you to inform us of a negative test result. However, all positive lateral flow test results must be reported as soon as possible and a follow up PCR COVID test needs to be booked via the government website. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

This is in line with government advice and guidance which states that:

*Because tests taken at home are unsupervised, if a **pupil, member of staff or a member of their household** gets a positive result at home they should report the result and arrange to have a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.*

Until the result of this follow up test is received, the child and anyone they live with should self-isolate. Once you receive the result, please inform us as soon as possible and we will advise regarding the next steps you should take.

What to do if your child has symptoms of COVID

The testing kits provided for students to use at home must only be used as part of the asymptomatic testing programme (testing for those people who DO NOT have COVID symptoms). If your child has COVID symptoms then you should book a PCR COVID test via the usual route; the link below provides further details and information on how to do this.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

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"We want to send every young person into the world able and qualified to play their part in it".



A reminder that the common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Until you receive the result of this PCR test, your child and anyone within the household must self-isolate. When you receive the outcome please inform us as soon as possible so we can advise regarding your next steps.

Testing in school after Easter

Given the success of our initial asymptomatic testing programme on site, we are planning on testing all students, whose parents have consented, once more after Easter. If, for whatever reason, you no longer consent to lateral flow testing you must inform us. In line with current practice you will receive a text notifying you of the day your child will be tested and the outcome of the test.

This year we have all experienced and risen to many challenges together. Many of these challenges have evolved quickly and without warning. Please be aware that this may continue to be a fast-evolving situation and we will continue to share any new information and advice with you at the earliest opportunity.

At Rawmarsh, we support others around us and look after our school community. I am so proud of the manner in which we have all demonstrated this and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Turton
Headteacher