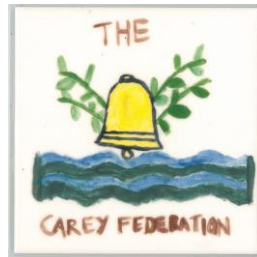


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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Ruh Alford B.Ed (Hons.), M.Ed

Wednesday 27th January 2021

Dear Parents,

COVID-19 Testing for Staff

You may have heard that primary school and maintained nursery staff are being tested for COVID-19 so I wanted to write to give you clarity about this.

The programme commenced this week and all staff are undertaking a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) at home, twice a week. These test for viral proteins and do not need to be carried out in a lab, unlike the drive-through or postal tests, which are known as PCR tests.

The tests are self-administered by staff either in the morning or the night before school and results take 30 minutes to process. Staff submit the results to NHS Test and Trace as well as to the school office. The purpose of the test is to identify and break the flow of transmission in asymptomatic people.

If the result is positive, the staff member and household must isolate **and we will need to close bubbles identified as being in close contact in the previous 48 hours and ask all contacts to isolate**. The staff member will then get a PCR test to confirm the result.

I appreciate that this means a bubble closure due to a positive LFT will be at very short notice, most likely in the morning before school starts. I know this will be very inconvenient so I apologise in advance if this occurs. However, it is reassuring that moving forward, all staff coming into school will have been regularly tested for COVID-19, which hopefully will make the school safer.

That said, we will not be complacent and we continue with all our protective measures outlined in our Risk Assessment, the latest version, updated for Lockdown 3.0 can be found on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/covid/>

We have not been given an end date for the testing and so I assume it will continue when school reopens fully. We have not had any indication that pupils will be involved in the testing. If either of these change, I will of course let you know.

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.

Mrs Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

