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Ofsted*

8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Key Worker and Vulnerable Children



I hope you and your families remain in good health and are trying to adjust to recent Government announcements of national school closures and the move to remote learning for all students.

Please note that we are still open for children of key workers and children deemed vulnerable.

I am writing to you today to update you on **the offer of lateral flow testing in school**

We are working to keep school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests are intended to help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. This testing is designed to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open for as many students and staff as possible. Please note that the test is voluntary.

We will be offering testing to all staff and students **who are in school** (Key worker and vulnerable students) who want to participate from week commencing 11th January 2021.

I attach an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you would like your child to be tested, please fill in the consent / registration form attached (one per student) and return it to the school by email (info@pks.coventry.sch.uk) by 9am on Tuesday 12th January.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

Testing will be offered free of charge.



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What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). We will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home, or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while you wait for the PCR result (via text / email) you will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

You will be able to stay in school and resume activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or

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change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the school on 024 76661416 or email us at info@pks.coventry.sch.uk.

Please do not forget that we are here to try and help you as much as we can so please let us know how we may support you further.

Thank you for your continued support and please stay safe and healthy.

Kindest regards



Mr Clayton
Headteacher