

1 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Pupils

Further to the Government's announcement, next week we will begin testing pupils in readiness for their return using the 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at Oakmoor.

Plan for testing

The Department of Education have requested that staff and pupils test negative before their return to the classroom. These initial tests will be carried out during Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th, and Wednesday 10 March whilst pupils continue online learning.

To ensure social distancing, pupils will be invited in their year groups. During their allocated day, pupils will be given a thirty-minute timeslot which will be set out in alphabetical order. We will text parents/carers the timeslot later this week. The days are listed below.

Monday 8th - Year 11 and 7
Tuesday 9th - Year 10 and 9
Wednesday 10th - Year 8

Once pupils have returned to onsite learning, we will complete two additional tests during school hours. Pupils will be tested in their teaching bubble, escorted by their subject teacher, and return to lessons straight after. The testing process takes fewer than three minutes per pupil. The days are listed below for reference.

Thursday 11th - Year 11 and 7
Friday 12th - Year 10 and 9
Monday 15th - Year 8
Tuesday 16th - Year 11 and 7
Wednesday 17th - Year 10 and 9
Thursday 18th - Year 8

For pupils to be tested we must have signed consent and unfortunately, the Government now requires additional information therefore please can this be completed again irrespective of if your child has been tested at school recently. Please can this be completed by **Thursday 4 March**. If we do not have consent, your child will not be tested. Please note that testing is voluntary. Please complete our consent form by [clicking here](#).

If your child is not in school (unrelated to Covid-19) on the day of their test, please let our reception team know and we will arrange for them to be tested on their return.

Once all three tests have been completed on site, we will be sending packs home for pupils to test at home twice a week. Once we have details on this, I will send further correspondence.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff, who have been testing onsite since the start of the term. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with parents or carers via a text notification from the NHS system. The school will inform the pupil of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Parents/carers will be informed of negative test results via text.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

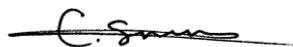
The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

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 (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact me on enquiries@oakmoor.hants.sch.uk please use COVID TESTING in the subject heading.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Simpson
Operations Manager