



# Oaklands School

"The best for all, the best from all"

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Head Teacher: Neil Oxley

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family are well.

Below is some important information regarding Covid-19 that I have been asked to share with you by Cheshire West and Chester local Authority.

## COVID-19 Community Testing Facilities

Due to ongoing changes with the nationally run COVID-19 community testing facilities, we are advising people not to attend symptomatic testing facilities without an appointment at the moment to reduce the risk of them attending at a time when the type of testing they require is not available.

- **Community Testing for people with symptoms or requiring a confirmatory PCR**  
To book an appointment for a PCR test if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have had a positive LFD home test you should visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119 and book an appointment at a local, mobile or regional testing facility.
- **Community Testing for people without symptoms**  
Community on-site testing for people without symptoms is run by Cheshire West and Chester Council. You do not need an appointment to get tested but you may need to queue when you arrive. Information about these testing sites can be found here: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-testing/testing-without-symptoms.aspx>
- **Household Home Testing Kits for people without symptoms**  
Household home testing kits can be collected from certain community testing sites at specific times of the day (at these times the site will not offer symptomatic testing). If someone lives in a household with an individual who attends or works in education and they would like to collect a home testing kit they should use the following link to check the opening times and location of the collection centre: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

## Changes to the Test and Trace support payment for parents

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Please note school will not be able to apply on your behalf. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment

That their child or young person:

- is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

I will be sending you my next letter early next week, updating you on any information ahead of the Easter holidays.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Oxley', written in a cursive style.

Mr Oxley

Headteacher