



# Oaklands School

"The best for all, the best from all"

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*Head Teacher: Neil Oxley*

20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Hope that you and your family managed to enjoy the Easter break.

It was really nice to see the pupils return to school yesterday. Hopefully as things improve, the pupils will be able to participate in more positive activities this term. However, at this point the school will operate in the same way as it did at the end of last term and therefore the school's Covid-19 Risk Assessment and control measures remain the same. The safety of pupils and staff continues to be the main priority and we will ensure that we do everything possible to help and contribute to reducing Covid-19 within society.

Thank you to those of you who are able to and are continuing to complete the Lateral Flow Tests at home with your child. By participating in the testing process you are helping to prevent the spread of the disease. You should have enough tests left to last you until Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April and by then we should have received our next allocation of tests. We will send you your next test kits before Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April. If for some reason you need an additional test kit for your child before this date, then please contact school and we will see if we have any spare kits we can provide for you.

**I have been asked by the local authority Public Health England team to share the updated information below.**

## **PCR testing for contacts of cases**

From Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April if you have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus you are advised to book a PCR test. You should do this at the start of your 10-day self-isolation period. Taking a test is not an alternative to self-isolating. You will still need to isolate for the **full 10 days even if you test negative** for coronavirus. If you live with the person who has tested positive, you should book your test for 3 to 5 days after their symptoms started. If you do not live with the person, you should book your test for 3 to 5 days after the day you last spent time with them. If you can't book your test within 5 days, book it as soon as possible. If you're a close contact, but you've **already tested positive in the past 90 days, you should not get tested** but still complete the full 10-day self-isolation period.

***Please again note that if in the unfortunate event that your child will be required to self-isolate due to them being a contact of a positive case, your child will still need to self-isolate, even if they receive a negative PCR test result.***

## PCR testing for additional symptoms

Local advice now states that anyone with shortness of breath, muscle or body aches, fatigue, sore throat, headache, nasal congestion or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting should take a precautionary PCR test. Staff and children with these extra symptoms are not required to seek a PCR test in the same way as they would if they had any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms. However, we would encourage them to seek a PCR test.

Staff and children do not need to self-isolate if they have any of the additional symptoms (unless these are alongside one of the three COVID-19 symptoms) and staff and children can continue to attend school while waiting for their PCR test results unless they are not well enough.


### What test to use when

Below is a reminder of which tests staff and pupils should be using when:

- **Individual has one of the three COVID-19 symptoms – a high temperature, or a new and continuous cough, or a loss or change in sense of taste and/or smell**  
Book a PCR test via the national booking portal <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or calling 119 and selecting that you have COVID-19 symptoms when prompted.
- **Individual has shortness of breath, muscle or body aches, fatigue, sore throat, headache, nasal congestion or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting**  
Book a PCR test via the national booking portal <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 and selecting you do not have symptoms and then selecting the option 'my local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms' when prompted.
- **Individual is well and has not experienced any of the symptoms listed above in the past 10 days**  
Undertake an LFD test twice weekly – these tests should not be used if an individual is experiencing any symptoms and is suspicious they are being caused by COVID-19 due to the accuracy of the tests.

As always please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions regarding the content of this letter.

Best regards



Mr Oxley

Headteacher