

23rd September, 2021
Ref: 000126



ATTENDANCE CONCERNS *Booking a PCR test*

Dear Parent / Carer,

The government have made it clear that as COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children's education.

Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. This means it's your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly.

If your child is displaying a high temperature and/or a new, continuous cough and/or a loss sense of smell or taste then you must book your child a PCR test.

Please do not use the 'at home' LFD tests – these are to test asymptomatic people.

I cannot emphasise the importance of **booking a PCR in a timely manner if your child is showing symptoms of Covid**. Please do not 'wait a few days and see'. The longer your child is off from school, the more their learning will become impacted.

Please book a PCR test as soon as your child is displaying symptoms of Covid.

If you feel that your child is under the weather but not showing symptoms of Covid, you may choose to administer an 'at home' LFD test for peace of mind. These can be ordered online or picked up from local chemists. However, if you are suspecting possible coronavirus then you must book a PCR test.

As a parent myself, I understand that administering a test on a child is not pleasant, however, this is not a valid reason for keeping your child off from school. Your child may benefit from seeing you and other older household members using the LFD tests at home so that they become more familiar with the testing and see it as 'less scary'.

If you are anxious about administering a PCR test to your child then we encourage you to access a local walk-in or drive-thru test site as there will be staff there to help advise.

Below you will find clarification on the different tests and when to use

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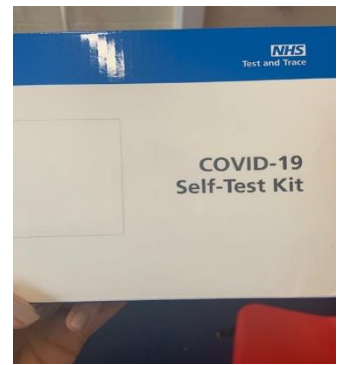
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Rapid Lateral Flow Tests (LFD Tests)

- These tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infections and can give the virus to others (asymptomatic people).
- Tests can be collected from test sites and local chemists or ordered online.
- Tests are to be taken twice a week (every 3 or 4 days)
- **These tests should not be used if you are displaying Covid symptoms**
- Further information can be found [here](#).



PCR Tests

- **This test is to be taken if you are displaying Covid symptoms:** a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; you've lost your sense of smell or taste or it's changed
- This test needs to be booked.
- This test is completed at a test centre or at home.
- Whilst awaiting the test result, the household must continue to isolate.
- Further information can be found [here](#).



Kind regards,

Ms. K Leach

Headteacher

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