

St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School
EDUCATE; CREATE; WITNESS:
CHRIST AT THE CENTRE.
Grindon Lane, Sunderland. SR4 8HP.
Head Teacher: Mrs. J. Ward



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We are an Operation Encompass School

Monday 25th January 2021

Staff Lateral Flow Testing

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that from week commencing January 25th, we will be offering all staff in school access to Lateral Flow Testing (LFT), in line with the recent Government Department for Education announcement that the secondary testing programme was to be extended to primary schools.

Staff opting to take part in the scheme will be asked to carry out LFT from home twice each week and record their results each time. 1 in 3 Covid Carriers are said to be symptomatic and the intention of these tests is to identify these and reduce the rate of transmission. We see this as a positive step for all of our schools in giving greater protection from the spread of Covid-19. Carrying out regular testing will help to quickly identify any asymptomatic staff members and prevent them from unknowingly passing on the virus in school.

Any positive LFT test will have to be followed up by the usual Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test - the type of test that the general public take to confirm whether they have got Covid-19. This may mean that bubbles will go down more frequently whilst the PCR test takes place. It may also mean that they are only down for a day or two if the PCR test then turns out to be negative. In the event of a confirmed positive PCR test result, we will continue with the current bubble closure procedures, following advice from Public Health England. To reassure you, all existing measures in our schools will continue to be observed and updated with latest guidance – the testing of staff is another support mechanism to keep schools as safe as they can be.

There will be no change to the current operation of our school and the onsite provision for vulnerable and critical worker children will continue as it is currently operating, with other children continuing to access remote learning from home.

We hope you are all well and thank you again for the way in which you have all adapted to the start of term. We understand the challenges and difficulties both you are facing and truly appreciate all that you are doing at the moment to support your children and our school.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Steele
Acting Head Teacher

