



The Oaks Primary School

Bringing Learning to Life

Friday 22nd January

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been advised that, as from the end of this week or early next week, all staff will be given the option to take Lateral Flow Tests which are designed to identify COVID-19 in asymptomatic people. While the test result returns very quickly (30 minutes), should the test indicate a positive result, a follow-up confirmatory test is highly important so the member of staff will then have to book a Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. These are the tests, which have been used for some time now, where swabs are taken and sent for analysis and usually take 24-48 hours for the result to come back.

This means if a member of staff tests positive on a Lateral Flow Test, the bubble in which that member of staff works will be closed down immediately until the PCR test results are known. If the PCR test results are negative, the bubble will immediately re-open as long as there have been no further positive tests in that bubble in the meantime.

It is worth noting that SAGE found that Lateral Flow tests detect more than 95% of people with high viral loads, with little difference between those who are symptomatic and asymptomatic so, if the Lateral Flow test is positive it is likely that the PCR test will return with a positive result.

Clearly, this could result in an increased level of class bubble closures over the coming weeks so I wanted to make you aware of this.

Please can you check your phones for texts on the evenings before your children are in school and I will make sure I text you immediately when I know if we have to close for your child.

Many thanks again for your ongoing support of school, your kindness is keeping us going!

Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Kind Regards

Jo Grundy