

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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4 March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

Lateral flow testing in schools before re-opening

Many thanks to all families who responded to the Lateral Flow Test online form to indicate the wish to be tested. We have scheduled over 1200 appointments for the first three days. You will shortly be receiving your appointments by email for your child's initial tests at the beginning of next week. I will apologise in advance if I have missed any appointments; we have tried our best to accommodate any difficulties or different timings. If you do not receive an email message with an appointment time for your child then please contact school via Parentline and we will make a correction. Pupils do not have to wear school uniform when they come in for their first test, but they must bring their lanyard and badge to aid with identification. Testing will help us to identify all asymptomatic cases to ensure your child is as safe as possible on their return to school on Thursday 11 March.

In order to make the initial tests as easy as possible, I would advise that you watch this video [How to do a COVID-19 Self Test \(rapid antigen test\)](#) with your child. It gives clear instruction on how to swab the tonsils and nasal passages.

Additionally, the Government have produced a simple webpage <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms> that explains the rationale for testing, pictures of what the results look like and other relevant information. If you have any questions about the process, then I advise that you read this short page, with particular regard to the pictures of what results for the test look like, once you have watched the video mentioned above.

It was remiss of me not to mention in my last letter that if your child has had COVID within the last 90 days they cannot take the Lateral Flow Test. Apologies if this causes you any problems. Please just ignore your appointment slot in this case.

When your child arrives for their test they will need to enter school via the main gates. For safeguarding reasons all other gates are closed. Please be advised that we are unable to offer car parking spaces on site. Additionally, parents may not enter the school site.

During registration your child will be issued with an NHS Track & Trace card which must be completed that day, following the instructions on the card. This can be completed on a mobile phone and I would urge parents to ensure that this is done. Registration is quick and easy and should take no longer than five minutes.

You will get your child's result by text message once you have registered via NHS Track & Trace. They must not attend school if they test positive. Please, however, notify us via positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk if you receive a positive test result so that we can check our records. You will then need to get a confirmatory PCR test. If that is also positive, isolate as

Believe.....

Principal Mrs C Walmsley
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

The Bay Learning Trust. Company Number: 07588464
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per national guidelines and let us know the PCR result as soon as you receive it, via the above email address.

We shall be receiving home test kits for all pupils who have completed the three tests in school. These will be distributed as soon as possible and we hope by no later than Friday 19 March. Tests should be completed twice per week - we suggest Sunday night and Wednesday night. If the home test is positive, please do not send your child school. Notify us via postivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk and obtain a confirmatory PCR test. We will then be in touch as part of our school tracking procedures.

If you have any questions please send in a Parentline message and I shall respond as quickly as I can.

Keep safe.

Gavin Gomersall
Director of Operations