

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Twice weekly COVID-19 testing at home

Dear parents and carers

As from today, pupils will be moving to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home. This is following their supervised tests on site at school.

Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

This afternoon we will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child. Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart**. Ideally, guidance suggests that testing in the morning before school is best but we appreciate in a busy household that is not always possible. Consequently, we advise pupils to **test on Sunday and Wednesday nights before bedtime**.

Your child should also continue testing twice a week, at home, **throughout the Easter school holidays**. We have given every child enough tests to last well into next term.

If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

## Reporting results

It is really important that results of tests are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result).

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

If you record a positive test (or a void test), please do let the school know via our dedicated email [positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk). We do not need to be informed of negative tests.

*Believe.....*

Principal Mrs C Walmsley  
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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## **Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week**

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online [www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests](https://www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests)
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

The British Islamic Medical Association's view is that taking polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lateral flow device (LFD) tests during Ramadan does not invalidate the fast. Pupils may feel more comfortable doing the tests when they are not fasting. In this case, with the move to home-testing, tests can be carried out at any time.

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing. If you have any questions about home testing, please do look at the website above. If that comprehensive site does not answer your query, then please do call or send a Parentline and we shall respond as quickly as possible.

Yours faithfully

Gavin Gomersall

Director of Operations