



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newtown, Broad Chalke, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 5DS.

Tel: 01722 780212

e-mail: admin@broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk website: www.broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



22nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to write and update you about a development in the government's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and highlight the possible implications for your family in coming weeks. Up to one in three people who have the virus have it without symptoms (they are asymptomatic) so could be spreading the disease unknowingly. Therefore, from Monday 25th January the Department for Education are introducing asymptomatic testing for all staff working in primary schools. These tests will be carried out twice weekly so that any members of staff who may be carrying the virus can be identified and asked to isolate in order to control the spread of the virus.

Therefore, like all primary schools, we have been instructed to issue staff with lateral flow test devices (LFT) in order for them to test themselves at home twice a week for COVID-19. If a staff member gets a result which is positive, they and their household must self-isolate and the staff member must book a PCR test to confirm if the lateral flow test was correct.

We have been advised by Public Health to **temporarily close the bubble** which that staff member works in if they get a positive result on the lateral flow test. This means that you will have to keep your child **at home** and they will need to access the remote learning via the daily email from the class teacher and the work set on Seesaw. The staff member will be taking a PCR test and waiting for the results of that before we can know if the bubble must remain closed or can re-open.

The issue is that it is possible that the PCR test may reveal that the result of the lateral flow test was a 'false positive' **in which case the bubble will open again**. However, if the PCR test confirms that the member of staff had a positive but asymptomatic case the **class bubble will close for 10 consecutive days** and your child will need to self-isolate for those 10 days. **It remains the case that anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test. Their direct contacts should also self-isolate until the result of the PCR test is known.**

The school office will contact parents of children in any affected bubbles via Classlist / Email. Unfortunately, if you miss the notification and send your child to school we will have to send them home immediately. **There will be no staff to run that class bubble for the course of those 10 days as the staff in that bubble will all need to self-isolate too.** This obviously has implications for every family with children **currently** attending school, as you will need to have short-notice childcare in place in the event that your child's bubble has to close. We will endeavour to get this message to you by the evening before the bubble has to close if possible or by 7.30am on the day in question at latest.

We very much hope that this situation does not arise but are sure that parents recognise the importance of preventing any potential spread of the virus to your family and contacts as well as in our wider school community. I understand that this is yet another complication in an already difficult situation for us all. I sincerely hope that this development will help to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmission. As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

