



Headteacher
Mr. Dale Bateman

Coopersale and Theydon Garnon C. of E. V.C Primary School

Brickfield Road,
Coopersale,
Epping,
CM16 7QX

Tel: 01992574890

Email: admin@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk
Website: www.coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk

Wednesday 27th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re. COVID-19 Testing for School Staff

We are writing to advise you that our staff will be taking part in the Government's "Lateral Flow Testing" initiative from next week. As you may be aware, the purpose of the testing is to identify individuals who have COVID-19 despite showing no recognised symptoms; in order to detect positive cases and seek to prevent the spread of the virus in our School and our community.

Whilst this letter contains important information for all parents/carers, during lockdown, it will **mainly only affect those who continue to have children on site at School**. There may, however, be some wider impact in terms of a delay in home-learning provision and other staff contact.

We are following Public Health England guidance and staff members will take two Lateral Flow Tests each week, three to four days apart. If a member(s) of staff tests positive, they will then book a full COVID-19 test at a local testing centre and follow Government guidance on self-isolation until they have the result. If the full test result is negative, the member of staff will be able to return to the School site. If the full test result is positive, the member of staff will need to complete their full 10 day period of self-isolation.

As you will appreciate, whilst there is always a risk of a staff member catching the virus, an increased level of testing increases the possibility of a positive case. We have a number of contingency plans in place but the Lateral Flow Testing initiative will inevitably cause some challenges for the School, our parents/carers and children. In particular, it may be necessary to close a bubble and move to online learning at short notice if we do not have appropriate cover to safely care for the children within it on site.

Please also note that, if a bubble is closed as a result of a positive Lateral Flow Test, all children within that bubble will have to isolate pending the result of the full test. If the result from the full test is also positive, then all children will need to complete the 10-day period of isolation and follow Government guidance if they develop symptoms of COVID-19.

If a member of staff tests positive, we will follow our current process of contacting parents/carers of children in the relevant bubble via the School Jotter App. Whilst it is always important to keep

up-to-date with correspondence on the App, we would be particularly grateful if **parents/carers of children who are attending School could make a point of checking the App in the evenings.**

We appreciate that this may be unsettling for families, particularly at a time when many are already struggling to balance the challenges thrown up by the pandemic. Please remember that, whilst the School is “closed” to many, we are still here for **all our children and our parent/community** so please do let us know if you have any concerns with regard to the new testing regime or arrangements we have in place for online learning. We all hope that with a number of initiatives being more widely rolled out, including this regular testing of primary school staff, we will soon be able to get all of our children back to School.

Many thanks to you all for your continued support.

With best wishes

Dale Bateman
Headteacher

Jonathan Goldsworthy
Co-Chair of Governors

Sam Reeve
Co-Chair of Governors