

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Lateral Flow Testing of Staff in Primary Schools

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope you are all well and thank you again for the way in which you have all adapted to the start of term, we know it is not easy and truly appreciate all that you are doing at the moment to support your children and our schools.

You may have heard in the news that Lateral Flow Testing is being implemented across primary schools and nursery settings for staff members. Therefore, we just wanted to update you as to what this means for our schools. All schools nationally will be provided with lateral flow tests for staff to use twice a week. A lateral flow test can help identify Coronavirus amongst people not displaying symptoms. This will be an additional measure to help support our schools being safe and as robust as they can be in managing Coronavirus. The government has stated that the tests are only for staff use at this time and children will not be part of this lateral flow testing programme. We will begin using these from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

To reassure you, all existing measures in our schools will continue to be observed and updated with latest guidance –the testing of staff is another support mechanism to keep schools as safe as they can be.

If a staff member tests positive, we will temporarily close a bubble, where the staff member has been working. If this test is followed by a positive PCR test then the bubble will remain closed for 10 days to reduce any further transmission. We are following this approach as the newly identified strain of Covid-19 is more transmissible than the previous one and we want to ensure we protect all our staff and children.

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.



Thank you as always for your ongoing support and understanding.

Take care,

Rob Darling

**Head of Education, Primary**

**Inspire Education Trust**