

Churchside Federation

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Godbold

Friday 23rd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another eventful week and I seem to be forever writing letters with 'the next big thing.' I am sure that many of you have seen in the news that the next big thing to face Primary schools is rolling out mass testing of school staff. *The rationale:* The Government's asymptomatic testing strategy will help to break the chains of transmission of coronavirus (Covid-19) in education settings by identifying asymptomatic positive cases. Those who test positive will then self-isolate, helping to reduce transmission of the virus.

The why and what...

This testing will begin next week across both schools in the Federation in the form of the Lateral Flow Device Test. Staff will be supplied with the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits which they will be able to use twice weekly 3-4 days apart before coming into work. The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in about 30 minutes. LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect asymptomatic COVID-19 cases. The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.


The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in the asymptomatic testing programme or not, will still be expected to obtain a PCR test and follow NHS Test and Trace Guidance, self-isolating until they have received their results. Schools and staff will continue with all current protective measures – asymptomatic testing does not replace these controls or make these less important in controlling the virus.

What do it mean for our school?

If a member of staff tests positive on the LFD test then they will be asked to book a PCR test to confirm the results. As soon as the school is made aware of a positive test, close contacts of the case will be informed and asked to self-isolate as per government advice. If the PCR test comes back as a negative result (LFD was false positive) the close contacts and the staff member can return to school. If the PCR test confirms a positive result then the self-isolation period will continue for the 10 days. It is important to note that the guidance and advice for testing and isolation periods are ever changing so we will continue to keep you updated as we move along this process. We hope that this testing will provide another layer of protection and prevention for the staff and children at our schools.

The educational landscape is moving at rapid speed and we are in a continual state of change as schools. We want to thank you again for your patience as we navigate the waters in this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Godbold", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Sarah Godbold