



Monday 18th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 mass asymptomatic testing for staff

I am writing to provide information on our intentions around the mass asymptomatic testing programme that primary schools across the country have been invited to initiate from Monday 25th January.

Every primary school in England will have access to rapid coronavirus testing (known as 'lateral flow tests') from January to help keep staff and students as safe as possible and in education.

Simple and quick tests using antigen Lateral Flow Devices (LFD), enable the rapid testing of staff, from their own home, without the need for a laboratory.

We are positive about the asymptomatic testing of staff and its potential to reduce the spread of the virus, particularly since it is widely recognised that up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms and could be carrying it unknowingly.

Staff will be offered two 'lateral flow tests' a week, starting on January 25th on an on-going weekly basis.

At Rackham, we are very mindful that there are currently some debates in the mainstream media about the accuracy of these tests, but we do not anticipate using them to make any decisions that might otherwise have been made if a staff member is feeling unwell or who has been in close contact with a positive case.

If any parent would like further information about this programme, please contact the school office in the first instance. We are only now receiving the training for this testing and we are working hard to ensure risk assessments are in place before Monday.

Once we have received the official guidance from the DfE, we will write to you again with details about what a staff member's positive test result might mean for your child at Rackham.

Kind regards,



Bridget Harrison
Headteacher

