

23 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Today is a **National Day of Reflection**, which is an opportunity to observe a minute's silence at 12.00noon as a mark of respect to those who lost their lives to Covid-19. It has been one of the most challenging and difficult twelve months which has touched all of our lives and sadly, I am aware that it has been an incredibly difficult time for lots of our St Edmund Arrowsmith school families. Therefore, we will be joining the nation at this time to reflect collectively on the difficult year that our school community has endured.

It has been an absolute joy to see all of our pupils back in school over the last couple of weeks, even with the restrictions that are currently in place. It will be the first week that pupils do not have lessons interrupted to have their lateral flow tests, as these tests are now being carried out using the home testing kits. **Please support us by ensuring that your child carries out their test twice a week.**

After administering approximately 3,000 tests over the last 2 weeks, with pupils being tested 3 times, we only had 1 positive lateral flow test result. A second positive result was reported to us by a child's parents. Consequently, we have had to send home two 'bubbles' of pupils to self-isolate.

I would like to **sincerely thank** all of our amazing staff and parents who helped to create such a professional environment in our testing centre. They worked 'above and beyond' what we could reasonably expect and did a magnificent job. I must also praise the sensible attitude of our pupils who made the testing regime run smoothly and efficiently.

Now that school has returned to a semblance of normality we are really keen to keep all of our pupils actually in school. Therefore, could I again urge everyone to follow the latest ([Covid19:Coronavirus](#)) guidance at home in order to keep transmission of the virus as low as possible.

This term, we have conducted our Parents' Evenings via Microsoft Teams and even though it has been a very different experience for staff, parents and pupils, I have received lots of **positive feedback** from parents via email and telephone calls - thank you for taking the time to do this.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding which is always greatly appreciated. Please remember that if you or your child are struggling with any aspect of returning to school, do not hesitate to get in touch with us and we will do our very best to help.

Yours faithfully



M J DUMICAN
Headteacher