



Elm Tree Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr D Lamb

Testing of School Staff

21st January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As ever, it is our priority to keep you informed of the changing situation in schools during these challenging and unprecedented times. I am sure you will appreciate the hard work involved in keeping schools open to targeted groups, as well as providing home learning to those children who are unable to attend at this time. We are grateful for your ongoing cooperation and understanding through all of this. The positive work and communication between school and yourselves is helping to keep us all safe and reduce the transmission of the virus.

The latest Department of Education guidance states that we must now start to test school staff on a regular basis. Schools will be using 'rapid tests' twice a week on asymptomatic staff for us to identify staff members that could be carrying the virus but are not showing symptoms. This will, potentially, help us reduce the spread of the virus and keep all members of our school community safe.

Whilst identifying asymptomatic staff will help us reduce the spread of the virus, it may also mean, that there are more regular closures of school bubbles. This will be unavoidable, and schools must follow the DfE guidance with regards to bubble closures as our duty of care in an attempt to make schools safer for all. As always, we will endeavour to make you aware as soon as possible if your child's bubble is affected. Therefore, it is imperative we have your most up-to-date contact details on file at school for you to receive any important notices.

There is nothing that you need to do at this stage. This new policy is an internal school procedure with staff but it is important to communicate this to you and ensure that you are informed of the steps that schools are taking, in accordance with DfE policies, to keep us all safe and well. If you should have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact school on 01695 50924

Yours sincerely,

David Lamb (Headteacher)

