



Dartington C of E Primary and Nursery School

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Together we grow, together we flourish

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you all for making the start of the school day so smooth this week. It was wonderful to see families as excited as we are, about returning to school and a sea of happy, smiley faces! The teachers have prioritised extra social time to rebuild connections and the amount of laughter wafting in through the windows has been heart-warming.

There has been lots in the news recently about testing and I thought it would be helpful to clarify about tests and primary schools. School staff have been testing twice a week, since January, and this has been going really well but primary aged pupils are NOT being tested in school. We know that around 1 in 3 people with COVID show no symptoms so these regular Lateral Flow Tests which staff use are another way of keeping each other safe and picking any asymptomatic people with COVID.

As an extra measure, the Government has announced that adults who live in a household with children attending school, can now also have this regular testing. This is optional and we know that many of our parents who are part of Health or Social Care will already be doing these tests but we wanted to highlight the choices you have so you can consider participating in regular testing as an extra way our community can work together to keep each other safe.

Schools were sent an email about this, from the Government, last week and were told we would soon be given a letter by them to send to parents, but have not yet had this. However, I wanted to inform you so that you have the option if you wished to participate:

“Lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff will also start to be available over the coming weeks. The testing can come through different mechanisms.

- *through your employer if they offer testing to employees*
- *at a local test site*
- *by collecting a home test kit from a test site*
- *by ordering a home test kit online*

The Local Authority is currently establishing a collection system for home testing. We anticipate that this will be available from the week commencing 21 March 2021.

In the interim you can order home test kits through the national system

[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

*It is really important that if you have Covid-19 symptoms you and your family members continue to isolate and book a Covid-19 test straight away. [Information on testing if you have symptoms](#). Lateral Flow Testing devices should **not** be used if you have symptoms.”*

These tests are not linked to school but are for households to organise themselves (currently using the online ordering link) but I thought it would be helpful to flag up this service and the links to get started, for those who wish to get involved.

Thank you for your continued support for all that we're doing to keep the school family and wider community as safe as we can.

Best wishes
Mrs Huish

Headteacher



Dartington C of E Primary School and Nursery is proud to be working in a Management Partnership with the Learning Academy Partnership