Friday 22nd January 2021,

Good morning everyone,

I hope that you are all ok and are keeping safe. I’ve got some big, important news to share with you today. I’m sure that you heard in the news over the Christmas break that Covid-19 testing in secondary schools was being introduced from the start of January. It is now in place in primary schools too. I know that many schools have received their kits; others are due to receive theirs next week.

Testing in primary schools does not apply to pupils; it is only for members of staff. We have received our Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests and this is being implemented on Sunday evening. These tests will be carried out by members of staff at home and it takes 30 minutes to get a result. Staff will take tests twice a week for the foreseeable future. The intention of carrying out LFD tests is to identify people who are not showing any symptoms of Covid-19 but are carrying the virus and therefore could pass it on to others.

If any member of staff tests positive then they must book a PCR test at a local test centre and isolate until the result is known - these results normally take about 2 days to come through. If the PCR test shows a negative result then they can end their isolation and continue as normal. If it is positive however they must isolate for 10 days.

This potentially could impact on school next week. If a member of staff does test positive we would be in contact with you ASAP as any person that has been in close contact with them would need to isolate until the PCR result is known. This would most likely mean that some classes would be closed. We are hopeful that this won’t happen and that everything will continue ‘as normal’ on Monday but I felt it was worth warning you just in case. Please ensure that you do check your emails on Sunday evening and Monday morning. If you don’t receive an email then that is good news, carry on as normal.

Last time I wrote to you I promised that the updated risk assessment would be with you on Wednesday. It was ready to go and then our test kits arrived so it has had to be updated again. It is going to the trust board for approval tonight and we will get this to you on Monday.

On Monday morning I will be having another Zoom meeting. I’m going to do it at the slightly later time of 10.00am, just in case there are things I need to deal with on Monday morning.

Have a good weekend everyone. Take care, keep safe and we’ll see you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Dyson

Principal