



BEDFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ST JOHN RIGBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

*God's will be done through work and play as we follow Jesus day by day*

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Headteacher: Mrs M McGettigan BEd (Hons)

27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware that, from 25<sup>th</sup> January, the Department for Education (DfE) has requested that all primary school staff take part in the Self-Testing Programme, using a lateral flow device (LFD) twice weekly, in order to reduce the transmission of the virus, supporting schools to remain open and our communities to stay safe.

Up to one in three people have the virus without symptoms (they are asymptomatic) and so could be spreading the disease unknowingly. These LFD tests will be carried out twice weekly, giving a result within 30 minutes, so that any member of staff who may be carrying the virus can be identified and asked to isolate in order to control the spread.

Testing is not compulsory and will not replace any of our robust safety measures that are already in place to keep our school community safe. This testing is for adults only and there are no indicators that suggest that a testing programme is being put in place for primary school children.

Staff testing at St John Rigby will start on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January and staff will be asked to test each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Should a member of staff have a positive result they, along with all identified close contacts, will need to self-isolate. The member of staff will then need to book a PCR (laboratory) test, in order to confirm the result.

This obviously has implications for all of our families in school as any positive result may mean that we have to close affected bubbles and your child will need to self-isolate following government guidelines.

We have chosen to do our testing at these times to give as much notice as possible and will endeavor to get a message of closure to you as early as possible the day before. It is, therefore, really important that you have some form of short-notice childcare option in place.

We would also recommend that, if your child currently accesses in-school learning only, you check that your child's Teams account works, you have the log-in details and all necessary information to support with the remote learning which will continue if a bubble needs to close.

I do understand that this may well be very disruptive for you and may be difficult to manage, but I sincerely hope that this development will help us to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmission.

We are all very much looking forward to the day when we can welcome all our pupils back in school and we can enjoy being together again. Let us hope that this testing regime makes this happen a little sooner.

As always if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Regards

Mrs M McGettigan  
Headteacher



St Francis of Assisi Academies Trust  
Diocese of Northampton  
Company No: 8462151

