

St Aidan's Catholic Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr M Boland

4th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are all looking forward to returning to school next week. You will have seen the details of this in the rather lengthy separate letter giving you all that information this week.

I am writing to give you a quick update on news in the media about families having access to their own COVID testing kits at home. We are waiting for further information about the details of this, but I know that lots of testing will identify and isolate the virus and so would encourage this. Staff in school have these kits available to them and keep me informed of regular testing to quickly identify any outbreak even without symptoms. We do not have kits to share with parents or families at this point and I share the latest guidance with you:

'... the government has confirmed twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles, to help find more COVID-19 cases and break chains of transmission. Twice-weekly testing will also be offered to adults working in the wider school community, including bus drivers and after school club leaders.

Getting a rapid test is quick and convenient. The expanded regular testing offer for people without symptoms will be delivered through:

testing in-person via workplace testing

local authority test sites – Knowsley Leisure Centre

collection at a local PCR test site during specific test collection time windows

a new home ordering service, which once launched on 1 March will allow people to order lateral flow tests online to be delivered to their home

This service is for people who **cannot go to rapid lateral flow test sites**, for example if you cannot drive or get someone to take you there.

you're 18 or older

you live in England

you do not have coronavirus symptoms

you have not been told to self-isolate

you or someone in your household, childcare or support bubble attends a primary or secondary school (including sixth form students) or works at one

you cannot get tests from a test site or your work

Order online here <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

I also write to let you know that I will not be in school until after the Easter break. Unfortunately, I have managed to damage an Achilles tendon which means I am unable to drive and have been advised by the doctors not to come back to work. I am really disappointed that I will not be returning to school with everybody else and although the doctors were sympathetic, they would not be moved by my arguments.

Miss Doyle will be Acting Headteacher and will withdraw from class to be available to support children, staff and parents for the next three weeks. The teacher in Y5 will be somebody that they know and will be familiar to them. I am sure Miss Doyle will do a fantastic job – she always does. I am still meeting online, taking e mails, phone calls etc... so still 'here' and available.

This is an important time for the school to come together as a community, provide reassurance to each other and start the road back to what we once knew as 'normal'. The positive relationships and living out of Gospel Values we enjoy at all levels have never been so important and I am sure that as the St Aidan's family come back together, we will all enjoy great reward.

I look forward to seeing all of you very soon.

Yours faithfully

M Boland (Mr)
Headteacher