



Oakdene Primary School

Low Grange Avenue
Billingham
TS23 3NR

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs E A Bramley B.A. (Hons) with Q.T.S., N.P.Q.H.

Telephone: 01642 560768
Fax: 01642 560942
Email: oakdene@oakdeneprimary.org.uk

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NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Staff

Dear Parent/Carer,

From Monday 25th January, the government have asked that all adults who work in schools should use home-testing kits twice a week for Coronavirus even if they show no symptoms.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help your children and our staff to work in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools. I am therefore strongly encouraging all staff to take the tests.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus.

Since March 2020, we have not closed a bubble. It is more likely that this could happen from now on because many more people are being tested and some could be carrying the virus which previously we wouldn't have known about. Although this might be frustrating, it will help to keep staff, children and families safe from the spread of coronavirus.

The NHS team recommend that the most effective time to take the test is in the morning before staff arrive at school. Unfortunately this means that if/when I have to close a bubble it is likely to be at very short notice. If a bubble needs to close then we will inform parents/carers as soon as possible using Marvellous Me. Our test days will be Monday and Thursday mornings. For the first week, staff have been advised to complete their first test on Sunday 24th January to allow for additional time to set up and familiarise themselves with the test procedure.

I know as ever you will all be very patient with us as we move forward because you understand that all of the measures we take at school are designed to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs E. Bramley

