

Oldfield Brow Primary School

"Only the very best will do"



Taylor Road, Altrincham, WA14 4LE

Tel: 0161 926 8646

Email: office@oldfield-brow.com

Website: www.oldfield-brow.com

Headteacher: Mr. R. Merrell

22nd March 2021

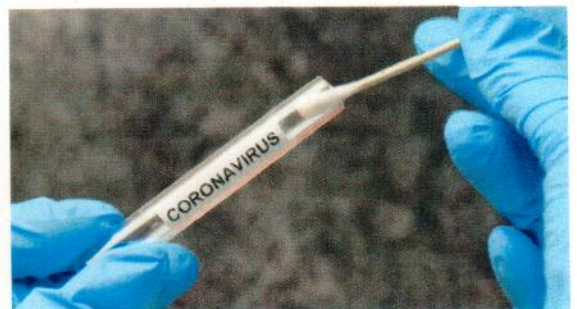
Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take up this opportunity to set out the expectations and rules that schools have to put in place with Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) and Polymerase Chain Reaction tests (PCR). Many parents now have access to LFTs through applying on-line or from their place of work.

LFT tests are designed to look out for asymptomatic covid - ie a person who might have covid but does not have any symptoms. It is approximately 75% accurate but this can be affected by it not being carried out correctly at home.

PCR tests are the 'gold standard' and should be carried out in a designated testing centre. This test is approximately 98% accurate.

If a child has any of the covid symptoms the whole family should self-isolate immediately, you must get a PCR test and these are booked on-line. It is only when one of these tests is found to be negative that your child can return to school. **A LFT test will not do.**



Unfortunately, at this time of year there are many children who have flu or the common cold - both of these also share some of the symptoms of Covid. If your child shows any of these Covid symptoms, then the whole family must self-isolate until you get a negative PCR test:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If another child in the family also goes on to develop any of these symptoms, then I'm afraid the family will have to go through the same process again. And yes, it's annoying, and yes, it's frustrating and yes, it's probably only a cold but it is what we are all expected to do to get on top of this pandemic.

When the child's (or family member) PCR test comes back negative then the child can return to school providing they are feeling well and have been fever-free for 48 hours. And that is important too - 48 hours might well spread over three days so keeping an eye on your child's temperature is crucial. Any parent who might send a child into school too early and without following the rules may very well compromise all the children in a bubble and potentially every child in that bubble would have to be at home for 10 days.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation - R Merrell

