LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL
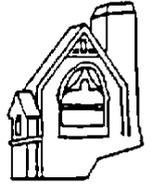
Headteacher – Mrs Sally-Anne Barnard-Taylor

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 MASS ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING FOR STAFF

Every primary school in England will have access to rapid testing (known as 'lateral flow tests') for Covid-19, from the week commencing 25th January, as an additional measure in keeping staff and pupils as safe as possible.

Simple and quick tests using antigen Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) will enable the rapid testing of staff, in their own home, without the need for a laboratory.

We are keen for staff to engage in asymptomatic testing as it is widely recognised that up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms and could be carrying it unknowingly. The more people who opt into this programme, the better the protection we have from the virus.

Staff will be offered two 'lateral flow tests' a week, starting on 27th January.

At Lionel Walden, we are very mindful that there are debates in the media about the accuracy of these tests but I can assure you that all the other measures we have in place will continue to be strictly adhered to. Should a member of staff test positive, they and the members of their bubble will be instructed to self-isolate, as per government guidance, and they will then take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result. Anyone displaying symptoms, despite having a negative test, will still need to self-isolate. Please note that bubbles may be instructed to close at very short notice.

This week, staff have received guidance and instructions for the testing and we are currently updating our risk assessment to incorporate this new measure.

If you have any questions, please contact me via the School Office.

Yours sincerely

S A Barnard-Taylor

Mrs S A Barnard-Taylor
Headteacher