

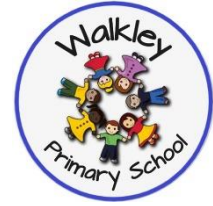
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'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'

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07.05.21

Coronavirus Update: Lateral Flow Device Testing – May 2021

Dear Walkley Parents / Carers,

With Covid cases dropping and life beginning to open up once more, it's tempting to think we've finally beaten the virus. However, this is not the case, as presently in our school we have received positive test results in Anansi class with confirmed positive results. Again, we thank parents with children in Anansi for keeping us informed, as this impacts on their return date. All pupils in Anansi should be self-isolating for ten days even if negative; the whole family will need to self-isolate for 10 days with a positive result.

Most of these children were asymptomatic, showing no symptoms. Positive results were initially shown through the use of the Lateral Flow Device test and then confirmed through a PCR test.

Even though we've got fantastic vaccines, they're not the entire answer to the problem – not everyone has yet had the jab, and none of them currently offer 100 per cent protection. However, we do have another brilliant weapon in our arsenal – rapid testing. Not only does this give a result in just 30 minutes, it can pick up the asymptomatic (around one-in-three) cases in which people don't show any symptoms. Walkley staff use these tests twice per week to help us to detect any cases.

It's vital these asymptomatic carriers are detected to prevent people unknowingly spreading the virus.

And the good news is that these rapid Covid-19 tests are now available free to everyone aged over 18 in the UK. They can be picked up at your neighbourhood test centre, any participating local pharmacy or ordered online at nhs.uk/Get-Tested or by calling 119.

Experts say we should all be getting into the habit of testing ourselves at home twice a week. That way we can catch Covid at the point it becomes highly infectious, and stop the spread.

Rapid Covid-19 tests (which are different from the PCR tests performed at test centres) were first used in the UK in October last year.

Since then, 58 million tests have been carried out, and detected hundreds of thousands of cases that would never have been picked up, so preventing the spread of the disease.

Your Faithfully

Val Sian

Headteacher