

MEON
JUNIOR SCHOOL

22/3/21

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have now been back for two full weeks and the children have settled so well back in school routines. Despite the time many of our pupils have missed in school this year and last; they continue to impress us each day with their hard work and positive attitudes.

New DfE site has an additional resource in the return to classroom learning.

As lockdown eases and new rules are announced there can be a lot to take in, in light of this, the Department for Education (DfE) have created a useful guidance page - What parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during Covid-19 - which might prove useful.



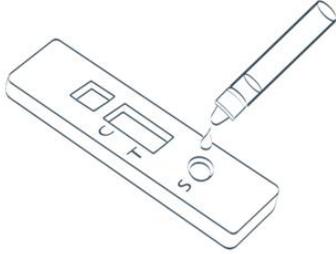
The new guidance is a great resource of information and has answers to queries you might have regarding the return to classroom learning, wraparound childcare and general school life during this pandemic.

The page, linked below, covers information such as;

- ü Mandatory attendance advice
- ü Admissions processes during the pandemic
- ü Helpful reminders around using public transport
- ü Expectations around attending school if a member of your household is shielding
- ü Mental health and wellbeing support resources for you and your family
- ü Comprehensive guidelines on face coverings in schools and nursery settings

READ MORE: [What parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during Covid-19](#)

Lateral Testing for households with school age children



As you may have seen, members of a household (family bubble) who have school-age children are now able to collect Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) for adults to test themselves at home on a twice-weekly basis.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at nursery, school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to take an asymptomatic test, twice-weekly:

- an employer, if they offer testing to employees;
- Community Testing via asymptomatic testing site;
- by collecting a home test kit from a Collection Point (RTS / LTS / MTU / CT);
- by ordering a home test kit online

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of nursery and primary school age without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Q and A on Lateral Flow Device testing

Where can I collect a home test kit in Portsmouth?

In Portsmouth, LFD tests for use at home can currently be collected (in packs of 7 test kits) between 1.30pm and 7.00pm from Eldon Car Park, Southsea, PO1 2DJ and between 1.30pm and 7.00pm Unit 9, North Harbour Road, Cosham, PO6 3TL, with two packs being given out per person. Both sites are giving out tests for collection and use at home seven days per week. No ID is needed, and there is no need to book an appointment.

Who should use the tests?

These community tests are provided for adult members of the household only. **It is really important to note that Public Health England advice is that primary age children (and younger children) should not be part of the regular asymptomatic testing programme.** Secondary age pupils will receive tests from their school.

LFD tests for use at home are intended for asymptomatic testing only. Anyone in the household, including children, experiencing possible symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of sense of taste or smell), should book a PCR test via the [government website](#).

What to do if an LFD test is positive

Parents must inform the school where any member of the household tests positive using an LFD test, and the whole household should immediately begin a 10-day self-isolation period.

Positive results from LFD tests used at home should be followed up with a PCR test. Self-isolation begins with the positive LFD test - families should not wait for the PCR test to begin self-isolation. If the subsequent PCR test is negative, the self-isolation can end.

What happens if I have had Covid before, or have had a vaccination?

LFD tests should not be used within 90 days of a positive PCR test. If you get a new set of coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms within those 90 days, you will need to self-isolate again for 10 days and get a new test.

LFD tests can and should be used by anyone who has received either one or two doses of the vaccine. The vaccination will not affect either an LFD or PCR test result. It is still important to follow hands, face, space and other prevention advice following vaccination as it is still possible to get COVID-19 and pass it to others.

To keep up-to-date with information about testing in Portsmouth, search "testing" on www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Maths Subject Knowledge Support for Parents

White Rose Maths have teamed up with TV presenter, teacher and parent, Michael Underwood to bring you a mini-series called Maths with Michael. We understand that many parents feel that Maths has changed and can sometimes find it difficult to keep up to date with modern teaching methods in Maths. As a school, we use White Rose Maths to support our teaching and learning in mathematics. These videos can help you bridge the gap between school and home.

Episodes will be released each **Sunday at 4pm** and **Wednesday at 7pm** for 3 weeks. Episodes will give you an introduction to place value, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and algebra. Please follow [link](#) for more details.

End of term date

The last day of this term is Thursday 1st April. School starts back after the Easter break on Monday 19th April.

Volunteers for the library

We are looking for parents who may want to volunteer in our school library. You would be able help us with returning books back to the shelves after they have been borrowed. If you have spare time and can help, please contact the school office for more details.

Laptops

All laptops that were borrowed during lockdown and remote learning need to be returned to school by the end of this week, Friday 26th March.

Easter Egg Raffle

We are continuing to fundraise for our school library. This half term we are doing an Easter Egg raffles. Please can we ask for donations of eggs. Raffle tickets will be available for pupils to buy (50p) at lunchtimes, from the week of the 15th March. A huge thank you to everyone that has donated so far.



Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sara Paine'.

Mrs Sara Paine

Head teacher