 

**The Woodlands Federation**

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05.03.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this email finds you well on what will, hopefully, be our last day of remote learning. We are excited to have all our pupils back in on Monday and I ask that you check you are familiar with the procedures for drop off and pick up as detailed in the letter last week.

We are constantly acting upon advice from the DfE and Government and I will share with yu the latest updates that arrived last night.

1. Pupils of primary age do not need to wear face coverings in school.
2. Lateral Flow test kits are available for families and support bubbles. Please see the information below informing you- who is eligible and where to get the kits from. The testing is voluntary but the more people who test the safer we can make our schools.

*Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at 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*](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)*for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:*

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| * *through your employer, if they offer testing to employees*
* *by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests*
* *by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most*
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*If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.*

*Children of primary school age (and below) 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.*

One last, slightly peculiar, request! After the last lockdown ended we found one of the hardest aspects of returning to school life was the pupils feeling constantly hungry. I always find it challenging after a time off work when I’ve been able to ‘graze’ throughout the day and I have to train myself to eat at regular times again! It may be worth doing a little of that training this weekend to help with the settling in next week.

Thank you all for your continued support it is very much appreciated and I look forward to finally meeting you all after a very strange start to the Spring Term.

My Very best wishes

Mr Jason Gathercole

Interim Headteacher