



Striving for Excellence

Cirencester Kingshill School

Head: Christine S. Oates

1st September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you are all well and have had a lovely summer.

We hope that all pupils are excited about coming back to school and seeing their friends and teachers again, we are certainly looking forward to welcoming everyone back next week.

School is looking much more “normal”, with the bubble zones all now removed, and new dedicated social spaces for all year groups set up. Of course there are still some elements from the last year that we have retained, such as extra sanitisation stations and one-way systems on stairs, but these are far less intrusive and are likely to remain as best practice for the future.

Face coverings are no longer a requirement in school, although any pupils or staff wishing to continue to wear them at any time during the school day will be welcome to do so.

We would appreciate it if all pupils would carry out a home Lateral Flow Device test the evening before their first day in school next week. This would be helpful to us in starting the school year off as safely as possible.

ONSITE ASYMPTOMATIC LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTING

The government requires all secondary schools to provide two onsite Lateral Flow Device tests (LFD) per pupil in school on their return in September 2021. We will be testing Y7, Y10 and Y11 on Monday 6th and Thursday 9th September 2021, Y8 and Y9 will be tested on Tuesday 7th and Friday 10th September 2021.

Testing is not mandatory, however it is a government and NHS recommendation that pupils take part in this testing programme to help ensure a safe start to the new academic year.

If you are happy for your child to take part in the testing programme, **please can you click the link below to complete the permission form by no later than 10:00am on Friday 3rd September 2021.** We appreciate that this is a short deadline, but we require completion by that time in order to process the permission before testing starts next week.

Permission form link: <https://forms.office.com/r/X1hrxw0Fqw>

Can my child still come to school even if they are not being tested?

The short answer is yes they can. As mentioned above, testing is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended.

My child has not previously taken part in a testing programme. How does my child do their Lateral Flow Test?

The Lateral Flow Test consists of a swab of the throat and nostril. It is very straight forward and your child will be supported by staff who have been trained using NHS training materials.

You may find the attached visual guide helpful.

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Cirencester Kingshill School, registered in England and Wales under number 7686390





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What if my child doesn't want to, or is anxious about being tested, but I am happy for them to take part?

Clearly we would like as many pupils as possible to take part in the programme as it will help maintain the safety of our school community through identification of any asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers. However, we are very aware that some pupils may be anxious about returning to school after the summer for a range of different reasons. The test programme may well, for some, feel like one thing too many to cope with.

In this scenario, if you are happy to consent for your child, one option is for you to complete the consent form so that your child is on the list to take part, and we will then at least be able to offer the chance to them when it is their turn in school. If at that point your child does not want to take part they need not worry, they simply need to let the person collecting them from class know that they don't want to take part, and they can stay in class until the rest of their group return from testing. We will not make a fuss or put pressure on them to take part, but they will at least have the option to go with their friends if they choose to.

If you have not consented for your child to take part in the programme, they will simply wait in class whilst the rest of their group are being tested.

My child is worried about the swabbing process, can both nostrils or only the throat be sampled?

Ideally both the throat and nostrils will be sampled. However, where there are physical/medical issues or a pupil has a very sensitive gag reflex that prohibits the throat swab from being completed successfully, double nasal swabbing can be used. Under circumstances, where a nasal swab is not feasible (e.g. a pupil is prone to nasal bleeds), it is possible to swab only the back of the throat without nostrils.

Please note that there may be a reduction in the sensitivity of the test in these circumstances, so pupils will be encouraged to swab both the nostril and throat if possible.

My child has recently had COVID-19. Should they be doing Lateral Flow tests?

Government advice is that LFT is paused for 90 days following a positive COVID-19 test.

If you require more information about COVID-19 and your child attending school, you can access it here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

I hope this letter has helped answer some of the questions that you and or your child may have ahead of coming back to school. If you have any other questions or concerns, please get in touch with your child's tutor, Head of Year or Head of Key Stage, and they will be very happy to help.

In the meantime, I am really looking forward to seeing pupils back in school next week for the start of the new school year. Thank you for your support and I will be in touch again with further updates as they arise.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C. S. Oates
Headteacher

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HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1 YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2 YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

3 BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4 OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

10 SECS

MEDIUM FAST

5 REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6 GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7 AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8 YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9 YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT