

Dear Parent/Carer,

19 March 2021

I continue to keep you and your families in my thoughts and prayers and want to thank you for supporting an excellent return to school.

We are happy to say that mass testing at school has been highly effective and helped to keep our community safe. We have been able to respond swiftly to one asymptomatic case and students' behaviour and attitudes have been exemplary.

This letter is to inform you about the next steps regarding LFT testing from home. Please can I remind parents that we are bound by government guidance as a school and cannot deviate from this.

What twice-weekly testing involves:

On Friday 19 March you child will be given two home testing boxes containing three home testing kits in each. These need to be taken home. It is now your responsibility as parents to support your child to administer these at home and we do hope you will participate to keep our community safe. We will be issued with further test kits soon and will issue another set before the Easter holiday which is **Thursday 1st April until Friday 16th April.** I will write to you prior to the Easter holiday outlining our expectations for reporting positive cases over the holiday.

From this weekend you will be asked to:

- Support your child to take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart)
- report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test
- [Report your test result online](#) or by calling 119.

If your child tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result
- follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)

We expect parents to inform the school immediately following an LFT test twice a week using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pGcNtDFve0GB0B6WvxpVXJrG6njJIDRFiDikEuHAofZUN0VVUjJYSVJRwvNKWjcxNkrKMVixNUZGVy4u>

If you have any questions or cannot access this link please contact school@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus, but this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all [coronavirus advice](#) including:

- regular handwashing
- social distancing
- wearing a face covering where recommended

Interim Principal Hannah Fahey

Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately. This can be the difference between children being able to stay in school, or a class being sent home due to an outbreak.

Thank you in advance for the support you will provide from home to ensure your child takes these tests. I know we can rely on your full engagement with this additional safety measure.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Hannah Fahey', written in black ink.

Hannah Fahey
Interim Principal