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Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you regarding the use of lateral flow testing. In the past two weeks we have had a few families who have used lateral flow tests on their primary aged children when they have had COVID symptoms, I am guessing because they had the tests in the house and wanted to get their child back to school. Below is the latest DfE advice regarding the testing of primary aged children:

## Primary school pupils and rapid asymptomatic testing

On advice from Public Health England (PHE), pupils in primary schools and children in nursery settings are not included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme.

PHE has advised that there are currently limited public health benefits to testing primary-aged pupils with lateral flow devices (LFD). In addition, primary-aged pupils, particularly younger children, may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

We are advising that primary-aged pupils should only be tested if they are symptomatic, in which case their families should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [book a PCR test](#) for the child.

As you can see, you should not be using lateral flow tests to test anyone who has COVID symptoms – a PCR test should be booked and the family should go into isolation. Also, to clarify, you should not be testing your primary aged child twice a week – this is for pupils Year 7 upwards.

I hope this clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely

Sally Dreckmann  
Headteacher

**Working Together, to Learn, Achieve and Have Fun!**

Headteacher: Mrs Sally Dreckmann BEd (Hons) NPQH

