

Headteacher:
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Saturday, 19 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

LATERAL FLOW TESTING

I am sure you will have seen, on the news, that the Government is planning to roll out very frequent testing in schools, for both pupils and staff. Despite the announcement that this is expected to be in place from 4th January, there is no clarity, as yet, about how this will happen and the assumption is that this will be left to schools to manage, in addition to what is already taking place. Training is not yet available and there is no clear plan for test kits and necessary equipment to be delivered.

We will remain in contact with the Government and make sure that we respond as soon as we can, as this is a very key step forward in being able to return to a more normal way of life. My understanding is that having a test will remain voluntary and we will seek your express consent before proceeding with a test for your child.

The reason for contacting you at this point is to seek your help. I do not believe that my staff have the capacity to do this in addition to their current priorities and I am very reluctant to involve agency staff, who may not understand the needs and anxieties of our pupils. I am therefore writing to you to ask if any of you would be willing to be trained and supported to do this testing. I am given to understand that you do not require particular qualifications or relevant experience to undertake the training and that full safeguarding checks will be required.

I am not asking you to make a firm commitment, as we do not yet know what is involved. If you think you might be able to support this, please leave a message on the school answerphone or email kellie.ransom@thevalley.herts.sch.uk We will contact you again when we know more.

Thank you once again for your support. This year seems to have been full of letters that I never thought I would need to write!

Corina Foster

Headteacher

