Covid Testing

Dear Parents,

Thank you for remaining vigilant for signs of Covid at home and for taking the appropriate steps when your child presents with symptoms. Since our return to school, we've all have been on a steep learning curve regarding our understanding of the process of booking tests for you or your children if they present with any of the signs of Covid. The availability of testing has rapidly diminished over the last ten days and we understand that a number of parents have found it difficult to book either a postal or drive-through test. From speaking to a number of people involved in the supply chain of tests, the following would appear to be some useful tips:

- Tests get released in batches throughout the day. Local drive-through test centres may appear to be booked out but then a new batch may get released at any point. For this reason, (if you have the capacity to do so), the best bet appears to be to remain on your computer and keep checking back every few minutes.
- Those being tested in drive-through centres seem to be getting their results back on average 2-3 days quicker than those who can only get a postal test.
- Many people report that 10pm (or just after) is the best time to go online and book tests.
- Some people report being able to just show up at a drive through centre and get a test on the spot without a booking (due to others being 'no-shows' at the drive through), <u>however, this is not officially endorsed or recommended.</u>

With regard to deciding whether to send children to school please see the flow chart below which you may find useful.

Yours sincerely
Mr Campbell

Would you have kept your child off school before Covid?

YES → Keep your child off school

NO → Do they have:

1. A new continuous cough?
2. A fever (high temperature over 38°C using a thermometer)?
3. A complete loss or change of smell or taste?

YES → Keep your child off school and at home

Speak to 119 or go to the www.gov.uk/coronavirus website and arrange for a self-test to be done

Your child and your household must self-isolate until you have the result of this test

NO → Does your child have an underlying chronic medical condition such as cystic fibrosis?

YES → Speak to their specialist team about testing criteria if you haven't already seen or spoken to them or had a letter in the post telling you when to worry

NO → Kids who are otherwise well with:

- Runny noses
- Sore throats without a fever
- Mild colds

Can go to school AS NORMAL