

# Winchelsea



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*All Individuals Matter*

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Good morning

You may be aware from the press and media coverage that staff in primary schools are now being offered the opportunity to carry out self-testing for Covid19 in a national initiative to try to reduce the risks of transmission of the virus and to control and contain those in the community who may be positive but asymptomatic.

Winchelsea has received a delivery of enough test kits for all staff in school which includes teachers, support staff, office staff, midday supervisors and site/ cleaning staff. Staff are not compelled to participate but at Winchelsea everyone currently has agreed to take part in order to help the national efforts to bring this virus under control.

This may have an inevitable impact on our ability to continue to provide all aspects of our remote learning and therefore I am writing to you in order to prepare you for the possibility of 'disruption to services' which may be inevitable. This is particularly relevant for those parents who are key workers and rely on their children being in school in order to continue their own work.

Staff at Winchelsea will be self-testing twice a week on a Sunday and a Wednesday evening/Thursday morning. Should a member of staff gain a positive reading they will inform school and as a consequence it will be necessary to close their class 'bubble' due to direct contact, along with other staff who work within the same bubble. The member of staff with the positive reading will be instructed to seek a PCR test at a local test centre and during that period of time all close contacts i.e. pupils and linked staff, will need to self-isolate until the test results are received. There is no need for the close contacts to seek a test unless they show signs of symptoms. Once the member of staff has received their result the bubble will either re-open (if the test proves negative) or continue to be closed and the length of that closure will be instructed by Public Health England which is where school has to report to. In the case of a bubble closure the associated staff will continue to provide remote learning from home wherever possible but this may be limited by their own access to resources and technology at home. Understandably this will not be possible if the member of staff is too unwell to work.

I appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience to key workers when bubbles are closed and may also cause some disruption to remote learning but we hope you appreciate the difficult circumstances in which we are working and that we must do our best to help our community to stay safe and to reduce the transmission of this virus so that we can all return to a better way of life as soon as possible.

The key times linked to the testing schedule suggest that Monday morning and Thursday morning each week could be a flashpoint for possible disruption to pupils' attendance in school and we urge parents to monitor their emails as we will inform you as soon as possible regarding school bubble closure and by 8.15am at the latest.

I am extremely grateful for your continued support and understanding and hope we can all continue to stay safe and well.

Kind regards

Helen Duckett

