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Headteacher: Mrs. S. J Tustain B.Ed. (Hons)

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Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent,

I hope that this email finds you and your family in good health during these difficult times. In last week's newsletter I informed you that staff would be starting regular Lateral Flow testing as part of a national strategy in schools across the country.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help our staff members to work in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools.

I can confirm that staff will begin testing from today and will undertake tests at home every Wednesday and Sunday.

In the event of a member of staff returning a positive test result, this will lead to the year group bubble being closed in line with government guidelines and all learning being moved online for your child. Staff have been asked to report results of the test by 7pm on a Wednesday and 12 noon on a Sunday, to enable the school to provide as much advance notice as possible to any families affected by closure. We will contact families by text and email so please ensure that the school has your correct contact details on our system.

In the event of a positive test, the year group bubble will be initially closed as a precautionary measure until the member of staff affected has undertaken a PCR test at an official testing station. This would be normally within 24-48 hours. Should the test return a negative result, we will be able to reopen the bubble, subject to staff availability. In the event of a positive result, the bubble will close for a duration of 10 days from the date of the original positive test result. Further details will be provided by the school in this event.

I can also confirm that following an announcement made by the Department of Education yesterday, the school will be closed for half term as planned between Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. We won't be providing any onsite provision during that week, but should families need childcare, our Childcare Centre will be running their holiday club, as usual.

As always, if you have any questions about any of the information above, please don't hesitate to contact me at [sarah-jane.tustain@psmps.co.uk](mailto:sarah-jane.tustain@psmps.co.uk)

We thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes and take care,

Mrs Sarah Jane Tustain  
Head teacher