

Foreland Fields School
Newlands Lane
Ramsgate
Kent
CT12 6RH
Tel: 01843 863891



Website: www.foreland.kent.sch.uk
Email: foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Adrian Mount

14th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are all well. I thought I would write to provide more details regarding COVID-19 testing plus other relevant information.

Risk Assessment / Parent Handbook

We have continued to update our Risk Assessment in line with Government Guidance. The updated Risk Assessment and Parent Handbook can both be found on the website with changes highlighted for your convenience. Please do take the time to read these documents which provide details of the measures we have put in place to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus within school.

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Testing

PCR is the testing system that has been in place at local test centres since the middle of last year. This provides the most reliable and accurate indication of whether a person is COVID-19 positive. A PCR Test should be used for anyone showing symptoms of COVID.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 should book a test through the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Anyone who is displaying any one, or more, of the common COVID-19 symptoms below, should isolate for 10 clear days from the onset of symptoms, should not attend school and should book a test as soon as possible:

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

The PCR tests and the procedures described above should not be confused with Lateral Flow Testing.



Lateral Flow Testing (Rapid Flow)

We have set up a COVID Lateral Flow Test (LFT) centre in school, and have started weekly testing of our staff. In order to reduce contacts, our Garlinge staff will be visiting a local LFT centre for testing on a weekly basis. They will not be coming to the Foreland Fields site. Students in the secondary department, who are able to self-administer, will be offered two rapid tests, three days apart, over the next week (if currently attending) or when they first return to school. Rapid tests require a swab of the throat and nose and results are provided within 30 minutes. Only people who are asymptomatic, i.e. not showing any of the symptoms listed, will be tested. Parental consent for testing will need to be obtained before it can be carried out.

In order to ensure that the process is child centred, we have started with a handful of students. This will increase over the next few weeks. We are currently not able to test any child who requires assistance with swabbing. We will be in contact soon with further details. Please note, in-school rapid tests are voluntary and any child whose parents do not wish for them to be tested has the right to refuse. In addition, any child who refuses the test, regardless of parental permission, will not be forced to have one.

Daily Contact Testing using Lateral Flow Tests

Daily contact testing will allow those who are identified as a close contact of someone from within school (who has tested positive for COVID-19) to continue attending if they agree, and are able, to be tested via further Lateral Flow Tests for 7 days. This will mean that any secondary aged child, or member of staff, who previously had to isolate due to being a close contact of a positive school case, can continue attending as long as they remain negative. The alternative is for the student to remain at home for 10-days isolation. Unfortunately, as these tests are currently only available to our secondary students, our lower school pupils (Nursery/Infant/Juniors), and anyone unable/unwilling to be tested, will still need to isolate for 10 clear days from their last contact with the positive school case.

I must say a huge thank you to the staff who set up and run the testing centre, which will further reduce the risk of spreading the virus within the school.

Remote Learning

Any parent of a child who is not attending will have been contacted by their child's class teacher regarding remote sessions. We do understand that these sessions can be upsetting for some pupils therefore, do not expect it to be a cause of conflict. There is however, an expectation that parents/carers will assist their child with home learning. Please get in touch with your child's class teacher if you require any additional work or advice regarding support for your child.

Should any parent/carer not have access to electronic devices including laptops or tablets, please get in touch with the school as we may be able to provide a device in order for your child to access online learning. We are also aware that the Government are providing 4G wireless routers to assist with internet access. Please get in touch with us if you have difficulty with online access.



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Free School Meals

Any parent/carer whose child is entitled to Free School Meals and is not attending school, will receive a voucher covering last and this week. We will be in touch regarding arrangements moving forward.

Should you have any questions regarding Free School Meals, please contact our Office Manager, Lynda Carr either at the school or by email on: lyndacarr@foreland.kent.sch.uk.

Please remember, even if your child is not attending, we are here to support you in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Stay safe

Adrian Mount
Headteacher

