

# CALTHWAITE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Calthwaite

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Headteacher: Mr J. Harvey



Dear critical workers,

As from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, all staff in school will be supplied with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits. Staff will be asked to take their test kits home and carry out the test twice a week. Staff must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed and also share their result with school to help with contact tracing.

Staff with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result. Staff with a negative test result can continue to attend school. Regardless of any results, we will still continue to follow social distancing, wearing masks, regular hand cleaning and separate bubbles. It just gives us an additional tool to help fight the virus.

In the case of a positive LFD result, we may need to promptly close a bubble temporarily whilst we await the results of a PCR. This does depend on the member of staff and their last contact with the children; we would contact Public Health England and follow advice. If the positive result is confirmed, we would close the bubble for a 10-day isolation period.

Here at Calthwaite School, we are absolutely committed to providing a place for those children who need to be in school and have no other safe option. However, the Government advice on this is clear: if you have the option to have your children at home then this is the safest place for them and others. The more children we have in school the higher the chances of someone becoming ill. This would result in a bubble being closed down which may ultimately mean that the key workers who have been accessing the provision are not able to work, and provide vital services. Thank you for only using us when you need to.

Kind regards

Mr J. Harvey