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**Headteacher:** Mr J Parr BA Hons

9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re : NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Students returning to school.**

*(PLEASE NOTE: This letter is provided by central Government and is provided as the required template to communicate key information)*

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it. The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load.

We will be testing all students registered at Church Stretton School who want to participate prior to their return to school. This is on the understanding that school will receive at least a fortnight's notice of students returning. Information about the testing can be found on the school's website [here](#) along with a [Privacy Notice](#) relating to use of information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the form via the link below within this letter (if you have more than one child at the school you will be required to fill in a consent form for each child).

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff will oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with parents or legal guardians who should inform their child/ren accordingly. It is likely that you will be informed by email, text or phone call.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

### **Registration**

To receive the test, we will register all participating students. To complete this registration please fill in the consent form on the link below.

### **[Consent form for lateral flow testing](#)**

Please note that to support planning, should you wish your child to be part of the programme, this form will need to be completed by 19<sup>th</sup> February at 3:00pm.

**Executive Headteacher**  
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**What if a pupil tests positive?**

Participating pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. As we are aiming to invite students into school for a test in the fortnight before re-opening, students will need to be brought in for their test on the date and time allocated and taken home immediately after the test.

**What happens if the test is negative?**

Students will be able to return to school (date yet to be confirmed for specific year groups) and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

**What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JParr'.

John Parr  
Headteacher