



The Hendreds Primary School
Ford Lane
East Hendred
Wantage
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JX

tel: (01235) 833379

e-mail: office.3250@hendreds.oxon.sch.uk
Website: www.hendreds.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: James Veness

JV/DHB 4213

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Newsletter 26

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you! On behalf of the teaching staff, thank you for supporting your children with their learning at home since Tuesday 5 January. We know that the children will be feeling all sorts of emotions (excited, nervous, eager, anxious...) as they prepare for the resumption of 'normal' school life on Monday. We are looking forward to welcoming them back and supporting them as they re-establish school routines and regain their stamina for the school day.

COVID-19 Testing When schools fully re-open on Monday, **secondary** school aged children will be asked to undertake regular coronavirus tests, initially at their school settings and then at home. Our staff have been using LFD tests at home, twice a week, since January. **Primary** aged children **do not** need to take part in regular testing and will not be asked to do so at school. This week, the government announced that families are able to access tests in a variety of ways, as is detailed below:

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- *through your employer, if they offer testing to employees*
- *by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests*
- *by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most*

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

We are all very much looking forward to seeing all children back at school on Monday morning: it's 8.30am – 3.20pm for Class 1 and 2; 8.45am – 3.35pm for Classes 3, 4 and 5. Make sure that your alarms are set!

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Veness', written in a cursive style.

Mr. J. Veness