



Worship together

This week, we continue to think about courage. In particular, we have considered encouraging others. 'Be strong and courageous: do not be dismayed or discouraged for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9. Kathy has continued to record her wonderful services on her You Tube channel. You can find these through this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3bB5e0X6-dbeEHJv0LGLQ>

LFD Testing

Following the launch of rapid asymptomatic coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in secondary schools and colleges on 4th January, staff in primary, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools are also being offered the opportunity to take part in regular asymptomatic testing. Therefore, I am writing to inform you that from Sunday 31st January, staff at school will begin taking part in the Government LFD Testing (Lateral Flow Device testing). This test is to determine if a person has coronavirus without displaying symptoms (asymptomatic).

Staff will take the test twice a week. This will allow us to find out if a staff member has coronavirus but displays no symptoms and enable us to take action. If a LFD test shows a positive result, then the staff member will need to attend a PCR (*polymerase chain reaction*) test. Whilst we are waiting for the PCR result, the bubble will have to close. Once we have information about the staff members' PCR test, we will contact the bubble to either invite you back into school or inform you to isolate for 10 days. If there is a need to close a bubble, we will inform you as soon as we possibly can, so please ensure we have the correct email address and phone number to contact you. We will aim to contact you on a Monday/Thursday before 8am. Please ensure that you check you have downloaded the School Comms app, as all information will be sent through this. Those who are not on it will receive an email instead. In the event of a bubble closure, remote learning will be offered to all pupils in that bubble.

Please note:

- This is not a test for people that are displaying symptoms. All staff will still follow all Government guidelines with regards to PCR testing.
- Should you or a member of your household display symptoms of the virus, please do not send your child to school. Book a test and inform us of the result as soon as you can.

Remote Learning

Firstly, a huge well done and thank you for all of your support in helping your children to access home learning. We understand the challenges and know how difficult it is to balance it with your other commitments. Staff have really appreciated all of the positive

feedback. We have also listened carefully to your worries and have tried to adapt plans accordingly. In particular, staff have considered the workload, particularly of afternoon subjects and have also increased the amount of live streaming. Regarding this, I have attached some useful guidelines for parents and children for you to read and share with your child. The slow distribution of laptops is utterly frustrating. We are doing everything we can to get hold of the devices but there are national distribution issues.

Covid-19

We are starting to see infection rates decrease, although they are still really high both nationally and in Solihull. This is a time to be extra vigilant to do all that we can in our efforts against the virus. We are aware that we have a few people in our school community who have been and are really ill with Covid-19. Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with them.

Wishing you all a happy and safe weekend and week ahead.

Simon Russell

Head Teacher
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