## Hexham Middle School

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Wanless Lane, Hexham Northumberland NE46 1BU

Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

## 25 March 2021

## Dear Parent/ Carer

Thank you to those families who are now supporting their child to take twice weekly lateral flow tests at home. We will send home further test kits on Friday (26 March). The Government have asked the children to **continue** testing through the Easter holiday. It is really important that the children take a lateral flow test before coming back to school on 12 April (we will send a reminder nearer the time).

School has been asked to be available for contact tracing at the start of the Easter break. Please could you inform us (via the admin email address) if your child tests positive up to and including 1 April either on a lateral flow test taken at home or a PCR test. From 2 April, please follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

The below information will support you in establishing home testing routines:

- You can watch a helpful tutorial video <u>here</u>.
- All results should be reported to school as well as to the NHS. Reporting to the NHS is a legal
  obligation of carrying out home testing. If you do not wish to take part in home testing,
  please return the kits to school.
- To report your child's test result to school, please use this <u>online form</u>. To report your child's test result to the NHS, please follow this link.
- If your child tests positive, please book a confirmatory PCR test at a local testing site. Unlike in-school assisted testing, a result obtained at home will be overridden by a PCR result.
- If your child is absent due to a positive test result and awaiting the result of a confirmatory PCR test, please also call the school office to report this (the online form is not a means of communicating absences to school).
- The test kits will be handed out to children in form time and will be marked with their name. We would like them to take a test on Monday mornings and Thursday mornings. Please ensure a test is taken before returning to school after the Easter holiday.
- If your child has tested positive within 90 days and you don't want them to take part in testing, please contact the school as and when the 90 days have passed.

We appreciate your support.

Mr Watters

**Deputy Headteacher**