



# RUTLISH SCHOOL

Watery Lane, Merton, SW20 9AD

Phone: 020 8542 1212

Fax: 020 8544 0580

Student Absence: 020 8540 3134

E-mail: [administration@rutlish.merton.sch.uk](mailto:administration@rutlish.merton.sch.uk)

Website: <http://www.rutlish.merton.sch.uk>

**Headteacher: Ms L. Howarth**

11 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so lovely to see the students return to school this week. I am writing to you with more details about home testing as well as general information for the return to school.

The first round of testing has gone extremely well and I am very grateful to my Testing Team and Senior Leadership Team for organising this so efficiently. The second and third rounds of testing have now begun and the process will finish on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

If a student or member of staff tests positive through the school testing process, we will send this person home immediately and carry out the necessary cleaning of that area. We will continue to track and trace any close contacts of that person and ask them to follow NHS guidance and self-isolate for 10 days. Learning for students self-isolating will be on Teams or set for them to complete independently.

## Home Testing and Covid19

Up to one in three people who have COVID19 can spread the virus without knowing because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, the government want to identify these individuals and this can be done by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

Once 3 tests have been completed in school the next phase of Covid19 testing is to issue home testing kits to students, (whose parents and carers have given us their consent). Students will be issued with a home test kit, free of charge, on the last day of their year group testing in school. The kits include either 3 or 7 tests and an instruction booklet which is easy to follow. Please read this guide before starting a test.

Students should carry out their test twice a week and based on the date of their last test in school the following are the days students should be completing their home test kit:

Year Group	Home Test Days
7	Monday & Thursday
8	Monday & Thursday
9	Monday & Thursday
10	Monday & Thursday
11	Tuesday & Friday
12	Tuesday & Friday
13	Tuesday & Friday

[Help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test. Please also see the attached documents for more information and the privacy notice.



Please ensure you register the test result with <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and also with the school [Rutlish Home Test Result Reporting](#).

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

If your child has a positive home lateral flow test or shows symptoms of Covid19 they need to self-isolate and book a PCR test. Please see the attached guidance for more details.

Home testing does not replace symptomatic testing. I am asking for your support that if any person in your household develops any Covid19 symptoms that they book a PCR test immediately and follow national guidelines. Please do not send your child to school until the person with symptoms has received a negative Covid19 test result. If the person receives a positive test result, the whole household should self-isolate for 10 days.

### Attendance

Now that the school is fully open, I am sure you will agree that we do not want any students missing more time in the classroom and that it is important for all students who are well enough to attend school every day. However, if your child is unwell please keep them at home and inform us via the Attendance Office, contact details are on our website [Rutlish School - Contact Us](#).

### Information

Please can I remind you that:

- Students should be in full uniform and shoes unless they have a PE lesson where they should attend school in their PE kit.
- All students should be wearing a face covering in classrooms, corridors and communal areas unless you have already contacted the Tutor or Head of Year to notify us of their exemption.
- All students can now enter and exit by either the Watery Lane or Mostyn Road gates.
- There are bicycles racks at both gates for securing bikes. Scooters, electric scooters and skateboards are not allowed in school.
- We have installed new bottle filling water fountains around the site to reduce the use of single plastic; please could you encourage your child to bring a water bottle to school.

A reminder that Comic Relief Day is next Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March. Students are encouraged to wear items that are red for our "Red Clothes Day" and bring £1 to support Comic Relief and the work they do supporting vulnerable communities throughout the world.

We are also asking for food donations for the Local Dons Action Group. Our Head Boy Team are organising and managing the collection of the non-perishable food items from tutor rooms from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Lastly, I want to thank our PTA for their kind donation of tea and coffee for the staff and the Governing Body for their continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Howarth  
Headteacher

Cc: all Staff, all Governors

