Dear Parents/Carers

Regular asymptomatic (no symptoms) COVID-19 testing has been in place for all staff and students at schools and colleges since January.

[The Government has recently announced that](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff) all secondary aged students will be offered tests to take at home twice a week, so that we can reduce the spread of the virus.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this in schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week.

**Testing students at home**

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing becoming part of their routine, others will find it more challenging. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend school whether they take part or not.

Each student has now been given two boxes of 3 home testing kits and the testing regime of twice-weekly home tests should begin next week. We are asking each student to complete the test on a Sunday night/Monday morning and again on Thursday night/Friday morning. They have enough tests to see them through the Pesach holidays and we expect further deliveries to be made to the school for the start of next term.

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. You will also need to tell the school the result of each test by completing the brief online form available by [CLICKING HERE](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6F3mqstPjUy_iGSMurNruayjFDWranpBrSQQ29xL7jlUN0M2TTJMUUlEUVZHRkJBVEwwVU1STDJHTy4u).

If a student has a positive test result, they will need to stay home and self-isolate. If the result of the test is unclear (void) they will need to do another one. Students have the option to take the test and report the evening before school, but no earlier.

**Taking part**

I am strongly encouraging all students to take part in the national testing programme.

Please contact attendance@jfs.brent.sch.uk if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Please [CLICK HERE](https://jfs.brent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Testing-FAQs.docx) to read some frequently asked questions regarding testing.

Thank you for your support.

**Mrs Rachel Fink**

**Headteacher**