



Bryn Offa Church of England Primary School

Rockwell Lane, Pant, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9QR
admin@brynoffa.shropshire.sch.uk
Tel: 01691 830621

Headteacher: Mr P Thompson

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

Rapid Lateral Flow Testing of Pupils and Families

The very welcome development of providing access to pupils and the families of pupils to the rapid testing for Covid-19 has now started, and there are multiple ways in which families can get hold of these tests.

The Lateral Flow Tests are slightly different to the PCR tests in that they are designed to recognise the protein spike of the Covid virus, rather than the virus DNA which is recognised by the PCR tests. Whilst both tests are effective, the Lateral Flow Tests do not have to be sent away to a laboratory, but give you a result in 30 minutes.

The Lateral Flow Tests are specifically designed to pick up those that have the virus but do not show any symptoms. As a large proportion of adults show no symptoms during an infection, and an even higher proportion of children show no symptoms this is an essential way of identifying those who are transmitting the virus without realising it. The normal procedure is to take a test twice weekly.

If any of you have had a Covid PCR test, the swabbing procedure is just the same but you don't send the swab away in the post. Instead, you simply swish it in a small container of liquid for 15 seconds, then drop this liquid onto a test strip and wait for the result. It is a little uncomfortable, but really quick and easy.

By following the link below you can either arrange to pick up the tests for your children and other family members from a test centre or from a collection point. If neither of these are suitable, you can organise for these tests to come through the post. This is all free of charge, which is fantastic as previously the number of tests you will be sent would have cost well over a hundred pounds.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

All of this is entirely voluntary, but I am hoping that as many of you as possible take up this offer. Doing so will help to keep all of us safe and ensure that we can stay open for all the children and not have to close again.

Yours sincerely

Mr Thompson