

December 2021

Dear parent/carer,

IMPORTANT LETTER: Planned COVID testing in-school for January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

The following letter contains important information for all parents/carers about continued testing at home over the Christmas holiday and **planned testing in-school on our return in January 2022**.

Testing in-school on 4th & 5th January 2022

The Government has asked that secondary schools offer all pupils **one Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test on-site** at the beginning of the Spring Term in January. This will help to identify positive cases of COVID-19, reduce transmission and support the continuity of education, particularly as increased social mixing is likely over the Christmas and New Year period.

Consent for in-school testing

Please read this section carefully and decide whether you **DO or DO NOT** need to complete the consent form and then take action as required.

✓ You DO NEED to complete the consent form if:

- You have not completed this form before.
- Your child joined Risedale after September 2021.
- Your contact details have changed eg. mobile number or email address.
- You wish to change your position on consent ie. now withdraw consent or give consent.

If any of the above apply to you, it is essential that you complete the consent form now. The final deadline for consent is midnight on 3rd January 2022. If consent is received after the deadline your child may not be tested: [NHS Test & Trace Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing](#)

✗ You DO NOT NEED to complete the consent form if:

- You completed the consent form for your child in September 2021 and no details have changed. We will already have your details on record and therefore you **DO NOT NEED** to complete the consent form again.

Testing Dates and Times

At Risedale, we plan to test pupils in Years 7, 8 and 11 on Tuesday 4th January (Training Day) and Years 9 and 10 on Wednesday 5th January. **Specific timings are shown on the next page.**

All pupils are reminded to bring a face covering and must wear them as and when required.

School buses and taxis will not be running for the testing session on Tuesday 4th January. If your child is due to be tested on Tuesday and you can bring your child into school please do so. If this isn't possible, please do not worry as they will be offered a test on Wednesday instead.

Tuesday 4th January 2022 (Training Day)

- **Testing for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 11. Non-uniform. Test and then return home.**
 - 9.00 am Year 7 surnames **A-F** test and then return home.
 - 9.30 am Year 7 surnames **G-L** test and then return home.
 - 10.00 am Year 7 surnames **M-R** test and then return home.
 - 10.30 am Year 7 surnames **S-Z** test and then return home.
 - 11.30 am Year 8 surnames **A-D** test and then return home.
 - 12.00 noon Year 8 surnames **E-K** test and then return home.
 - 12.30 pm Year 8 surnames **L-S** test and then return home.
 - 1.00 pm Year 8 surnames **T-Z** test and then return home.
 - 1.30 pm Year 11 surnames **A-E** test and then return home.
 - 2.00 pm Year 11 surnames **F-L** test and then return home.
 - 2.30 pm Year 11 surnames **M-S** test and then return home.
 - 3.00 pm Year 11 surnames **T-Z** test and then return home.

Wednesday 5th January 2022 (Normal school day)

- **All pupils, from all year groups, arrive at school on time, assemble and be ready to go to tutor time at 8:25 am. All pupils to wear correct uniform and bring all equipment required for their timetabled day.**
- **Testing for pupils in Years 9 and 10 will take place during the school day.**

How the tests work

Pupils taking the tests in school will be supervised by trained staff. Pupils who test positive will be informed about their results immediately. Parents/carers will also be notified by the school. Following this, parents will also receive a test result notification from the online NHS system via text/email.

Considerations for children with SEND

We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause significant concerns for some children and young people with SEND and their families. Some of these concerns may be alleviated by discussing them with the school, agreeing on strategies to help reduce anxiety and putting in place any reasonable adjustments (if the individual has a disability). Parents may want to look at the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information: [Mass asymptomatic testing in specialist settings - GOV.UK](#)



Testing at-home

Pupils are encouraged to test over Christmas in accordance with current public health advice. Pupils may wish to take a rapid lateral flow test in situations where they are more likely to catch or spread COVID-19. This includes spending time in crowded and enclosed spaces, or before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they catch COVID-19.

Pupils will receive two boxes of LFD tests before the Christmas holiday. If for any reason you run out of test kits you can order more here >> [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests](#)

Up to one-third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. Please continue to encourage your child to test twice weekly and report all results (negative, positive or void).

- The result of each test needs to be reported, even if the result is negative or void, using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](#).
- You will also need to tell the school the result of each test by completing the following form: [Home Test Result Form - PUPILS](#)
- When we return to school in January, if at any time your child does test positive, please remember to contact the school and report their absence in the normal way, making it very clear that this is because of a positive LFD test result.

Thank you for your continued engagement in the COVID-19 testing programme.

Yours sincerely,

Colin D Scott - Headteacher

Useful Links:

- Risedale in-school testing Consent Form: [NHS Test & Trace Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing](#)
- Considerations for children with SEND: [Mass asymptomatic testing in specialist settings - GOV.UK](#)
- Ordering LFD test kits: www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests
- Getting a COVID-19 PCR test: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
- Report an LFD result to the NHS: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](#)
- Report an LFD result to school: [Home Test Result Form - PUPILS](#)

Privacy Notices:

- [COVID-19 Testing at Home of Pupils](#)
- [COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing \(ATS Testing Privacy Notice\)](#)