

Orchard School Bristol

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Headteacher: Mrs Julia Hinchliffe **MA (Hons), MA, NPQH**

31 December 2020

Dear parent/carer

Mass Testing for students in school

I am writing to let you know about plans for Covid testing at Orchard School. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using quicker COVID-19 Lateral Flow Tests. As you know, we are working to keep our school as safe as possible and I have now received Department for Education guidance on how schools will carry out these tests.

By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it. I will be sharing further details and consent forms in the next few days.

Our staff will try their best to manage this process, but the logistics are very challenging: we need to test over 1000 students and staff on their return to school, and then routine/serial testing for those identified as close contacts.

In order to carry out mass testing, we are urgently looking for volunteers who might be able to give a few hours of their time to help with the rollout.

Would you be able to help?

Parent volunteers would need to undertake online training to be able to take up a supervisory or processing role during this rollout period. Processors do not need to be clinically trained; the test results show as a single or double line in a window within 30 minutes.

If you are able to help, please could you email sbm@orchard.tila.school with the following information:

- Your name (first name, family name)
- The name of your child at Orchard School
- The date(s)/times you are available to support
 - Times: 8am – 11am; 11am – 2pm; or all day 8am – 2pm
 - Dates:
 - Wednesday 6th January
 - Thursday 7th January
 - Friday 8th January
 - Monday 11th January



- Tuesday 12th January
- Wednesday 13th January
- Thursday 14th January
- Friday 15th January
- Monday 18th January
- Tuesday 19th January

Please note this is voluntary and we are sorry we are unable to pay for your help, but we would really appreciate any time you could offer us to roll out this first mass testing.

Once we have an indication of support available, then we will contact you with further information. Thank you for your ongoing support at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hinchliffe', written in a cursive style.

Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher