



*Headteacher: Mr P. A. Swift*

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27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday saw the UK reach a very sobering milestone and at this point everyone's lives have been touched by the global pandemic. It can be difficult to believe that there is light at the end of this very long tunnel and I know some of you have stopped watching the news as the constant speculation about 'road maps' out of the current restrictions just adds to your anxiety.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your tremendous support and the amazing work you are doing to support your children with their learning. It isn't easy. We are only human and we all need support. Staff at FJS are parents too or have close family members that they haven't seen for months. However, every day, both in school and 'virtually' on SeeSaw, they create a warm, caring environment for pupils. They have also been out to homes with food parcels, iPads, laptops and work packs when families have had to shield or isolate. They are very appreciative of your support too and understand the sacrifices you have made in order to 'stay at home.' Everyone's individual circumstances are different, but by working together we will start to see an impact, which will in turn lead to an ease in restrictions. I'm sure by now you know someone who has been vaccinated or their appointment is in the next few days and weeks.

The UK Government has announced a further control measure to safeguard the health of the education workforce and enable all staff in school to be tested. The Government have made rapid-result coronavirus (COVID-19) testing available to all members of staff in schools.

Staff will conduct twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing - this will help identify those who are carrying the virus without displaying symptoms, reducing the risk of transmission. If a LFD test displays a positive result, all close contacts will need to self-isolate resulting in a POD closure. As per the government guidelines, staff must then book a subsequent PCR test, if this result also comes back positive the POD will remain closed for 10 days. However, if the PCR test result is negative, all pupils and staff can return to school.

Staff will commence testing from today, so we are unsure at this stage how much disruption this may cause. Results of LFD tests could mean POD closures on Mondays and Thursdays. We aim to provide as much notice as possible should your child need to self-isolate. The tests do not replace the need for good hand hygiene, social distancing, face coverings or ventilation and where families can stay at home they should continue to do so.

As always, take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. A. Swift  
Headteacher