

**Breakspeare School**

Gallows Hill Lane  
Abbots Langley  
Hertfordshire  
WD5 0BU

**Tel:** 01923 263645  
**Fax:** 01923 260087

**Meadow Wood School**

Coldharbour Lane  
Bushey  
Hertfordshire  
WD23 4NN

**Tel:** 020 8 4204720  
**Fax:** 020 8 4205497

admin@breakspeare.herts.sch.uk

admin@meadowwood.herts.sch.uk

19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to share with you the outcome of our COVID-19 risk assessment review last week. For the first time in over a year we are in the position of being able to open opportunities for all of our children to engage in their learning in a more inclusive way. This means that some activities and social interaction beyond our students' own class group can resume. We are not fully back to normal for any of our students - BUT we are moving in the right direction. Please note that HCC health /safety and PH have approved our risk assessment. The updated risk assessment is attached to this letter

If for any reason, we find that there is a new risk for an increased level of the COVID-19 virus transmission within our schools we will review our health and safety risk assessment and implement operational guidance without delay.

It would be most helpful if as many families as possible would sign up to the rapid lateral flow-testing programme and set up a routine of biweekly lateral flow testing at home. This can take place with all members of the household other than those of primary age and younger children. This would strengthen the preventative measures within our school community. Your assistance with this matter is much appreciated. Rapid lateral flow testing can diagnose COVID prior to any symptoms - it is for people who are without COVID-symptoms.

Any household in the UK can order lateral flow test kits free of charge.

Please find further information

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>



[Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\)  
rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

Use this service to order free packs of rapid lateral flow tests to be sent to your home in England. A pack of tests contains 7 tests. You can order one pack per household each day.

[www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

Parents and carers should continue to report positive COVID rapid lateral flow test and PCR test results to the school as normal; this is to provide a safety net to ensure that all cases are reported as early as possible; this is to reduce or prevent risk of transmission. We will now be automatically informed of positive results following a PCR but it is the best that families still report positive test-results to our setting as normal.

We are in a very fortunate position in the UK that rapid lateral flow tests are offered free of charge for all households and that the vaccination programme is extremely well organised. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the vast majority of our staff will have their second vaccination the week

after bank holiday Monday 3rd May. We are working on minimising any disruption on our organisation.

Another very positive piece of news, is that we have been fortunate to receive a significant donation of 25 laptops and 15 tablets from The Force Mail Charity (Daily Mail). These resources will be shared between Breakspeare and Meadow Wood Schools. There was a photographer from the Daily Mail at school on Friday and it is possible that there will be an article in the paper /online today or early this week.

Lastly I would like to draw your attention to the 'Test and Trace £500 payment' has been extended to parents

- The DfE have announced that parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria (which includes receipt of certain low-income benefits).
- The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and borough councils in Hertfordshire, and ends on 30 June, ensures that parents receive some financial support if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities and are unable to work from home, read more at: [www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment](http://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment)
- Nurseries, schools, colleges and further education providers are required to provide a letter to all parents or carers of the children advised to self-isolate, to support their application to the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

Thank you for your continued support

Take care.

Be safe.

Merja

