01622 726773



Bower Grove School Fant Lane Maidstone ME16 8NL

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued support and understanding through this difficult period. There has been some further guidance released from the Department for Education that I thought I would share with you.

## **Temporary Suspension of PCR tests in Education Settings**

PCR testing following a positive Lateral Flow Test will be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January. This means that pupils who have reported a positive Lateral Flow Test and **do not have symptoms** will no longer need to get a PCR test.

We therefore do not need to ask pupils to take a PCR test to confirm a positive Covid case, unless they:

- Have symptoms
- Wish to claim a Test and Trace Support Payment
- Have been advised to take a PCR Test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
- Have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme

## Daily testing for close contacts of Covid

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with Covid, should take a Lateral Flow Test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

## **Vaccinations for Young People 12-15**

We are encouraging pupils aged 12 to 15, to have their Covid vaccination at a walk-in centre. This can be their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine. For more information please speak to your GP or visit <a href="www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> We are waiting to hear from the Government about the opportunity for further vaccinations in school.

And finally, an update to term dates:

## Queens Jubilee (Public Holiday)

Schools have been granted 1 day Public Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We will be closing the school for this day on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022. This means the last day in school for pupils will be Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school during the ever-changing Government guidance. We are doing our best to keep you informed.

With kind regards,

L. Salter

Mrs L Salter Headteacher