



CONSETT
ACADEMY

Our Ref KER/CMC

26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I begin with an apology. I'm afraid his message is very practical and only covers Covid 19 testing arrangements but I'm required to convey important information.



I am sure many of us were disappointed by the announcement that the overseas travel ban will be extended until July. This seems to suggest that we still have some way to travel along the path to normality. However, when we glance over our shoulders, we have come a very long way since this time last year.

Taken from the book, 'The Boy, the mole, the fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy

Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. The government guidelines say:

- test twice a week at home from now on – I set out the tests and dates in [my letter last week](#)
- report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country – also, we would ask that you report the result to the school. Please follow this link during term time [using this form](#)
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- test before returning to school for the summer term – this should be done on Sunday 11 April

Families and households can also access [home test kits for adults](#).

Covid 19 positive cases guidance from 27 March to 1 April

Following DfE guidance I'd like to remind you of what to do during the first week of the Easter holiday.

- If your child **tests positive** from Monday 29 March you should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- If your child **tests positive** for Covid 19 (**NB. if a home lateral flow test [LFT] registers positive you must arrange for a PCR test to confirm – or otherwise – the result**) and/or having developed symptoms on or before Sunday 28 March you should contact the school (using this link bit.ly/3vY0V8k) giving us the following crucial information:

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Part of New College Durham Academies Trust
Executive Principal: Mr K Reynolds, MA

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Consett
DH8 6LZ

T: 01207 507001

E: enquiries@consettacademy.org.uk

W: www.consett-academy.org.uk

- ✓ Name of student
- ✓ Year Group
- ✓ Date Symptoms began
- ✓ Symptoms
- ✓ Last Date in School
- ✓ Positive Result Date
- ✓ Close contact – break and lunch
- ✓ Way they travel into school and who with
- ✓ Any adults they would class as being in close contact with at school

We will pick this information up every morning between the 29 March to 1 April. You should **ONLY** use the link above to inform us during the Easter holidays. You should **not** contact your child's Year Manager.

You may receive a text message alerting you of a positive case but it may not affect your child – we would urge you to read the text carefully.

Changes to the Test and Trace support payment for parents

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. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- They are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self isolation period
- They are employed or self-employed
- They cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- They meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) of locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment

That their child or young person:

- Is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Carer Plan (EHC) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- Has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Cont/d

Finally

Despite all this talk of Covid and testing, I hope you and your family (plus more friends!) are able to spend some relaxing time together over Easter and that the weather is kind to all of us.

Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Kevin Reynolds
Executive Principal