

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Just over two weeks ago, Gloucestershire County Council opened a new walk to neighbourhood testing facility in Barton and Tredworth, Gloucester. The centre was set up to help drive down cases of Covid in the city, an area where rates continue to be high.

With the facility located at the Friendship Café on Painswick Road, Gloucester continuing to work well, people who work in Gloucester City, as well as those who live there, are now being invited to get tested.

Testing continues to be offered mainly to those who, for work or caring responsibilities, still have to leave the house. People who are clinically extremely vulnerable should continue to shield.

The testing being offered uses Lateral Flow Devices (LFDS) – these tests help to identify Covid in people who have no symptoms.

The site is open 8am – 7pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

You must book an appointment – you will not be tested if you turn up without one.

The test, which must be taken twice a week, only takes a few minutes and results are known within 30 minutes, which means anyone who tests positive can take action quickly to help protect others.

A negative test does not 100 per cent mean that you do not have the virus, however, lateral flow tests tend to detect individuals in their most infectious period. As 1 in 3 people may have the virus and never get symptoms, this can be a useful tool to find extra cases of COVID-19 before the virus is passed on.

The Gloucester City based centre is expected to run for another six weeks, but will be reviewed regularly. The county council is working on setting up LFD testing facilities in other parts of the county in the weeks ahead.

REMEMBER: Testing is not an alternative to following the rules. Please continue to follow all advice and guidance so we can bring community infection under control as quickly as possible, even if you get a negative test result.

For more information visit the county council's dedicated testing web page.

Anyone who has Covid symptoms should self-isolate and book a test through the national testing portal.

Yours sincerely

Steph Matthews
Headteacher