



# Ark John Keats Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Re: September Mass testing in school

The government has advised all secondary schools that every secondary pupil must be given the opportunity to take a rapid COVID test upon their return to school after their holidays. Your child will have the opportunity to take two of these tests spaced out over 3-5 days. Your child does not have to complete a test in order to return to the classroom, but both the government and the school strongly encourage you to do so. Lateral Flow Tests are safe, reliable and will give us an accurate way to prevent pupils returning to school with Covid. It will also help to reduce the spread of Covid in the local community.

The timeline for testing your child is below. Your child will need to be on site for 8.25 am to begin their lessons at 8.30 am. Year 8 and 9 will start later for their induction day only to support the new start to the year.

	<b>First test (hour slot)</b>	<b>Induction (arrival time to school)</b>	<b>2nd test (in school)</b>
7	Friday 3rd (AM)	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> (8.10am -8.25 am)	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> (AM)
8	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> (PM)	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> (8.40 am -8.55 am)	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> (AM)
9	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> (AM)	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> (8.40 am -8.55 am)	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> (PM)
10	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> (PM)	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> (8.10am -8.25 am)	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> (AM)
11	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> (AM)	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> (8.10am -8.25 am)	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> (PM)
12	Friday 3rd (PM)	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> (8.10am -8.25 am am)	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> (PM)
13	Friday 3rd (PM)	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> (8.10am -8.25 am am)	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> (PM)

Each tutor group will have a specific window to arrive at school on their first day to be tested. This will be shared on our website before the end of term. Pupils will arrive and be welcomed by their Head of Year. They will then enter the Sports Hall in a socially distanced manner and have the test explained to them. Pupils will complete the test and go through to the waiting area until their test is confirmed. Pupils who have not consented to the test will go straight through. Once all pupils have been tested and we have confirmed they are negative for Covid they will be spoken to by their Head of Year and tutor and sent home. Pupils will not return to school until their induction day. We expect this process to last between 50-80 minutes. Pupils will need to attend in their full school uniform and bring a bottle of water and pencil case in their bag.

Regardless of whether you wish your child to take a test they must be on site on time. If your child or anyone in your household is suffering from the following symptoms – a persistent cough, high temperature and loss of taste and smell they should book a local Covid test through the NHS. If your child has been in close contact within the last 48 hours with someone who has had a positive test for Covid they should self-isolate for 10 days as per current government guidance.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Mullarkey  
Vice Principal

**Principal:** Jo Facer  
**Primary Headteacher:** Amy Baird

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