SHINCLIFFE C. of E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 5th March

Dear Parents,

I hope you continue to keep well.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of the children back on Monday 8th March.

Below is an update from the Department of Education received late yesterday regarding testing which schools have been asked to share.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- *through your employer, if they offer testing to employees*
- *by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests*
- *by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most*

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Stay safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely

Mr Tait