



2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the school summer holidays, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support over what has been an extremely challenging year. I know many of you have responded well to the changes made to school practices and supported your school and children to adapt to the many requests made from the Government and Public Health – this has been very much appreciated.

With your support, along with the work of all school staff, children and young people were able to successfully return to the classroom in March and have enjoyed meeting up with friends and school staff and participating in lessons. I am sure many of you have enjoyed getting things back to 'normal' as well!

Unfortunately, and as I know you will appreciate, COVID has not gone away. Currently we are experiencing a significant increase in our cases across the Borough, and it is important in these last few weeks of term that we all do everything we can to prevent infection spreading.

We know that the Delta variant spreads very easily, and this means we still need to follow the advice of public health, keep good hand hygiene and social distancing, keep wearing masks if you can, make good use of home, school or community testing and self-isolate properly when we are asked to do so - so we can stop passing on the virus to others. I know this is challenging at times, and that the advice can feel confusing, but it is essential if we want to keep our schools going and our children learning in these last few weeks of term.

Of course, another way we can reduce the levels of illness in our community is by making good use of testing and vaccination facilities. Vaccination and regular testing are our best defence against this virus. The vaccination is currently available to over 18s so if you haven't yet booked your appointment, you can do so by visiting [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or by ringing 119.

For our school population regular lateral flow testing (twice weekly) is vital and schools have worked hard to help students and families access the tests they need. If you want to know more about this, you can contact your school who I am sure will be happy to answer any queries you may have.

Of course, the testing programmes in our secondary schools will pause over the school summer holidays, but rapid testing kits (lateral flow tests) can be collected

from your school before your child breaks up to be used at home over the school holidays.

Having tests at home gives you the peace of mind to know that, as society opens up more and more, you are infection free when meeting with friends and family.

Alternatively, there are a range of testing sites across Knowsley where you can pick up testing kits or access assisted testing.

The locations and opening times are below:-

**Kirkby**

11a Market Square, Kirkby, L32 8RG

**Huyton**

Unit 1, 22 Derby Road, L36 9UJ

**Halewood**

The Halewood Centre, Roseheath Drive, L26 9UH

**Prescot**

Prescot One Stop Shop, Prescot Shopping Centre L34 5GA

**All sites operating the following hours:**

Tuesday – Thursday 09:30 – 16:30, Friday 09:30 – 16:00 and Saturday 10:00 – 16:00

You can also order tests online to be delivered to your home by visiting [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests). Tests will be delivered quickly directly to you.

For more information on when and where to get tested in Knowsley, visit [www.knowsleynews.co.uk/remind-er-about-when-and-where-to-get-tested/](http://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/remind-er-about-when-and-where-to-get-tested/)

Getting tested regularly will allow us all to enjoy the summer as safely as possible so I would urge you all to make sure you get some tests or visit one of our centres.

Remember, it's important get tested before meeting up with other people from outside of your household and also to log your test result at [www.gov.uk/repot-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/repot-covid19-result) (regardless of whether is positive, negative or void). Logging your results helps us all understand what infection rates look like within our community.

Please remember that if you receive a positive test result, you should stay at home and book a PCR test through [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or ring 119. If your PCR test comes back positive, you, your household and close contacts must self-isolate for 10 days. This is to prevent the further spread of the virus.

Finally, I want to thank you all again for your patience throughout what has been a challenging school year. I sincerely hope you and your families enjoy a relaxing



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summer break and I look forward to welcoming back all children and young people back to school in September.

Yours faithfully,

*J. Alberta*

Assistant Executive Director Education & Early Help