



**Rainhill St Ann's CE Primary School**  
 View Road, Rainhill, Merseyside, L35 OLQ  
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 Twitter: [@StAnnsRainhill](https://twitter.com/StAnnsRainhill)  
 Headteacher: Mrs Laura Rynn



Together, we aim high; with God's love, we can fly.

Thursday 6 January 2022

**Letter sent on behalf of St Helens Council**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly can I thank you for all the ongoing efforts you have made towards helping to keep pupils in the school safe during the past few months, despite the serious and ongoing challenges the Covid-19 pandemic has presented for all of us.

As you will be aware, with the spread of the Omicron variant, positive cases in St Helens Borough have risen sharply since we finished for the Christmas holidays. The escalation in cases has been so significant that the borough now has one of the highest infection rates in the country.

In the seven day period up to January 1<sup>st</sup> for example, the rate of infection in the borough was 2,738 per 100,000 people, with 4,926 new cases recorded. This is three times higher than the number of cases recorded during January last year.

For this reason it is essential we all test before returning to school next week and help prevent the rapid spread of new cases once children are back in school. To help with this St Ann's has teamed up with St Helens Borough Council to provide a special walk-in lateral flow testing facility at the school site on View Road, Rainhill this **Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> between 9.30am and 2.30pm.**

This will be open to all parents/ carers and pupils in the local community and will enable you to get tested on site and then receive your result shortly afterwards.

You will be able to get an on site test for both you and your child at the facility. Please note that all children attending must be accompanied by a parent, carer or guardian and that children under the age of 11 must have their test administered by the person accompanying them.

The testing sessions will be held in the main hall at the back of the school. In order to access the hall when arriving at the school, please walk down the main driveway at the side of the school to the rear where you will find the hall.





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We would ask that you only attend the testing session if you currently have no symptoms of Covid-19. If you do have symptoms, please do not visit and remain at home.

We would encourage you to take this opportunity to get yourself and your child tested if you can as this will help to make sure that they are safe to return to school.

If visiting the school to get tested on Friday we would also ask you to help keep everyone safe by:

- wearing a face covering on site when you arrive
- continue to socially distance when possible

If you are not able to come along this Friday, then please do make sure that you test at home before school resumes next week. It is the best way to help prevent new cases of Covid-19 coming into the school and potentially leading to many more infections amongst pupils and staff.

Currently many people testing positive with Covid-19 have shown no symptoms of the virus at all beforehand so even if you currently feel well, you could still have the virus and pass it on to others.

If your child does test positive after doing the symptom free lateral flow test, you should not send your child into school when term resumes. You should also look to book a PCR test for your child to confirm the result. When booking online please state you have been advised by your local council to book the test.

You can book a PCR test online at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus), or by calling 119.

We would also urge both you and your family to continue to test twice a week with symptom free lateral flow tests even if your child does not show any symptoms of Covid-19. Twice weekly rapid LFT testing is important as it is possible for pupils to have no outward signs of infection themselves yet be capable of passing the virus onto other children, both within their own class and others in the school. Rapid testing helps to identify cases quickly and therefore prevent spread within the school and disruption to education.

Thank you again for your efforts and helping to keep all our children safe and the school open.

Yours sincerely

St Helens Council

