

8th June 2021

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers,

Enhanced community testing in RG6/RG40 postcodes

Wokingham Borough Council will be carrying out additional Covid-19 testing after a small number of cases in the borough were found to be the Delta variant and cannot be traced back to international travel.

There is currently no evidence that this variant causes more severe illness, or that it makes vaccines less effective. However, it is believed to be more transmissible than the recent 'Kent' variant – in other words, it passes more easily from person to person. The more cases we find; the better chance we have at stopping it spreading. Please help to keep Westende safer by participating in the testing.

We have been asked to take part in additional testing, using a 'PCR test', which is processed in a laboratory. These tests allow Public Health England to see if there are any cases of the Delta variant in our school by carrying out genomic sequencing. These testing arrangements will be carried out in four wards identified as having experienced higher rates of transmission in a recent period, over a two-week period from Monday 7th June.

- Bulmershe & Whitegates
- Evendons
- Norreys
- Wescott

During this period, all adults living and/or working in these areas are strongly encouraged to engage in community testing and as a school we wish to play our part in supporting this. To help keep our friends, families, and colleagues safe, we would encourage the parents and families of students to engage in surge testing at one of our community surge test sites. Further information on these can be found [here](#).

In the meantime, if your child or anyone in the household test positive, has symptoms or has been identified as a close contact, the whole household must self-isolate immediately for 10 full days in line with Central Government guidance. We would also ask that you notify us here at Westende in the usual way.

The same national guidance continues to apply in areas where new variants have been identified and education settings can remain open. All pupils and staff should



continue to follow national guidance, including 'hands, face, space, fresh air', and take rapid Covid-19 LFD tests twice a week, even if you do not have symptoms.

For more information on local surge testing, please visit the Wokingham Borough Council website [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Sykes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Mrs Andrea Sykes
Headteacher