

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the past week we have found ourselves in an unprecedented situation. You as parents, your children, and staff at Plymstock School are all trying to work our way through this unknown situation the best that we can.

Our main priority is the health and well-being of all members of Plymstock School including you as parents. I fully understand that distance learning is a brand new concept to most of us and it will take some time for us to all find our way and work out a method that works for the majority.

My biggest piece of advice is try to stick to a routine; if it all possible follow your child's timetable and complete the work set for those subjects on that day. It is possible that in some subjects staff may have uploaded more than one lessons worth of work at one time, but work your way through and allocate an hour to it that day; you can always come back to it during the next lesson. If you have more than one child at the school get them to work together – I appreciate this may be easier said than done! If your child has completed all of the set work then they can review and consolidate their learning since September or from previous years if they are in Years 10 or 12.

Whilst I suggest that you have a routine I am aware that there needs to be a flexibility to your days to accommodate all of the people in your house and their needs. There is not a one size fits all approach to this situation and you have to go with what works for you and your family.

There will be no new work set over the next 2 weeks – this should have been the Easter break. If you and your child need to, then take this time to complete any tasks set from the week beginning Monday 23rd; many teachers have set the completion date for work set this week for after the Easter break.

We are currently looking at ways in which we can adapt and update the work set for students after the Easter break to hopefully make it more streamlined and less overwhelming for students, parents and staff.

If you need a break from the academic work then do have a look at the enrichment activities on the distance learning page of the website for some ideas that you and your children can do at home. I will continue to update this over the next few weeks.

You are all doing a brilliant job at juggling your work and childcare and making a new normal for yourselves for the next few weeks. Please do not put extra pressure on yourselves and remember you can only do what you can do and we, Plymstock School staff are here to help and support your child's learning where we can.

I also attach a document regarding learning at home which will hopefully address some of the issues we have faced over the past week. This will also be available on the school website.

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/distance-learning/>

Take care of yourselves and please do let us know if there is anything we can do to support your child's distance learning.

Best wishes,



Beth Evans

Assistant Headteacher; Teaching and Learning