



18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It is with great regret that I am writing to inform you that the School will be partially closed for Year 9 with effect from tomorrow, Thursday 19th March until the end of this week. We will update and notify you via our MyEd messaging service and our website should this situation change.

I stress that this is not because there have been any reported cases of COVID-19 amongst the students or staff. It is because we no longer have sufficient staff available to teach and ensure the safety of all of our children and young people. The government's guidelines on the circumstances in which people should self-isolate has resulted in the situation where a number of teachers who are no longer able to work in the school.

Our plans, at present, are for all classes for the other year groups to continue as normally as possible, however some of these classes may be taught by a different teacher than normal.

We have selected the above year group in order to strike a balance between continuing classes for groups facing examinations this summer and recognising that children in Year 7 and 8 present you with greater difficulties when making arrangements for their supervision. With this in mind, the current strategy is in place for the rest of this week, although the picture may change again with further Government announcements and if staff absence increases.

We have put in place arrangements to try and maintain the education of students whilst they are at home as best we can. Wherever possible staff will use 'Show My Homework' to set work and, in addition, we have created a new area on our website called 'Distance Learning' with links to a range of online guides.

We also want to give as much support as we can to health care workers and those who work for other emergency services. If you would like your children to continue to attend school during partial closures, then please contact us and we will do our best to accommodate them during the day. This can only happen by prior arrangement (which must be made through Gail Buckler at gbuckler@plymstockschool.org.uk).

For those students and staff who are attending school, we are continuing our precautions to prevent the spread of infection. This includes a revised cleaning regime, encouragement to wash hands, closure of the premises to external groups and termination of fixtures, trips and similar activities.

Any student or member of staff who shows the symptoms identified by the government is advised to self-isolate. I recognise these are difficult times for parents in all sorts of different



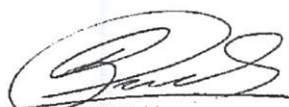
ways. We will continue to do all we can to work with you throughout this rapidly developing situation in the best interests of our children.

Many thanks for your understanding during these challenging times. We will continue to update you as and when we receive further government guidance. Please check MyEd/your email regularly for further communications, as this, alongside our website, will be our main form of communication.

I am sorry for the short notice but we are working towards trying to keep the school open to support the government's strategy and minimise disruption to working families. We have unfortunately late this afternoon reached the critical point where we now do not have sufficient staff available to teach and ensure the safety of all of our children and young people.

I am sorry that I am unable to let you know the strategy for next week at this time, but please rest assured that we are doing everything we can to keep the children safe and healthy and to minimise the disruption to their learning at this time.

Yours sincerely



Rob Pearsall

HEADTEACHER



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