



Our Ref: RCP/JDC

31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday evening, following a statement earlier in the day by Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, the Department for Education issued updated guidance regarding the return to school in January 2021. This update was required due to rising infection levels and the new strain of the virus.

Tuesday 5 January

ALL students will now remain at home for the first week and engage in remote education. This will be issued using Satchel One for all year groups.

For students due to take public examinations in their technical awards, these will still go ahead as planned. Parents/carers will be contacted with regards to the arrangements.

On Site Provision

Students with an **Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)** or **allocated social worker** will return to school from Tuesday 5 January.

If you are a **critical worker** who cannot arrange emergency childcare, and have not yet contacted the school, please use the new centralised email address.

The new central email address created for parent/carers to communicate over arrangements for On Site Provision is: onsite@plymstockschool.org.uk

- **On site provision** information and confirmation will be sent via MyEd to parent/carers asking them to confirm attendance.
- Please be aware that the school is still closed, and you may not receive a reply until Monday 4 January.
- Students are expected to be in school uniform and will be completing their remote learning on site. They will be based in their Year group bubbles and within allocated areas of the school.

Week commencing 11 January,

From Monday 11 January, students in Years 11 and 13, will return to school for face to face teaching.

The school will also remain open to students with an EHCP or allocated social worker, and children of critical workers.

All other students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will remain at home for the second week and engage in remote education. These year groups will return to school as normal from **Monday 18 January**.

Lateral flow testing

You will be aware schools have been asked to provide **Lateral flow testing (LFT)** for COVID on site as an extra level to our Covid secure measures. This is to “minimise disruption in schools” and “ensuring that every secondary school pupil is tested as they return, and regularly thereafter”.

The staggered start arrangements in January have been put in place both to control the spread of the virus and to allow time to set up a testing programme so we are prepared to deliver testing of both staff and pupils. As yet, schools await the full details; resources and support that are due to arrive in school from Monday 4 January.

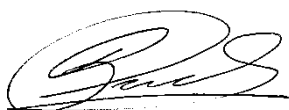
We will update you as soon as the testing schedules have been finalised. Testing will of course be optional but strongly encouraged. Consent will be required.

The Prime Minister in his statement that he wanted to “stress that depending on the spread of the disease it may be necessary to take further action”. It is therefore possible I will be writing to you again. We will continue to keep you updated through our MyEd messaging service and website of any further changes.

We very much look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back to Plymstock School and we will continue to do everything we can to keep the school open and safe for all children to attend. I would stress, like the government, that all students **“Outside of school, they should continue to adhere to local tier restrictions for Plymouth” currently Tier 3**; to keep us all as safe as possible.

Thank you in advance for your support and I wish you a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely



Rob Pearsall
HEADTEACHER

