



9 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Post February Half-Term - Plymstock School – An Update**

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. We still await further information on how and when schools will re-open, The Prime Minister has stated this will not be before the 8 March and plans will be reviewed on 22 February.

I am taking this opportunity to summarise how we will proceed with remote education after half term and other updates.

### **Monday 22 February**

Monday 22 February will be a Trust wide professional development (Staff Training Day) for all staff within WeST Schools.

### **Consolidation and Enrichment week, 23 – 26 February**

As a result of feedback from parents and our curriculum leaders, we are introducing a 4 day opportunity for students to practise and develop recently acquired skills and knowledge. This is to ensure that those students who have fully engaged in remote learning can have the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of subject material and enjoy the opportunity to apply their knowledge. It will also enable teachers to identify knowledge gaps and for students who have fallen behind in their learning to re-engage in their studies. For some subjects this is not appropriate, so in those cases we have asked that where any new learning takes place during this week material is broken down into smaller steps and students have sufficient opportunities to practise the newly learnt material.

### **Remote Learning Expectations (Students)**

- All students are expected to follow their school timetable and complete five lessons per day.
- All students are expected to attend all live lessons.
- All students are expected to attend all scheduled tutor time and assemblies on MS Teams.

We appreciate that individual circumstances may mean that it will not always be possible for students to adhere to the above at all times. However, we advise that where possible students meet our expectations so that their education is impacted as little as possible.

We recognise the unique challenges this presents families, and a dedicated team of staff will continue to contact and support families led by Mrs Duff, Mr Taylor and Miss Monelle.

### **Remote Learning Expectations (Staff):**

- Teachers will start lessons on MS Teams and will then be available on MS Teams or Satchel One for at least the first 30 minutes of each lesson to give support with the work that has been set. The only time this will not be possible is if the member of staff is delivering on site provision or is unwell.

### **On- site Provision**

School continues to provide on-site provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. There has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people attending across all year groups, which has presented us with some additional challenges. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for your support and working closely with us to ensure we can safely accommodate as many requests as possible. We will support wherever possible but as per the Department for Education guidance, parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can. A reminder that all on-site provision requests or queries should be made using the following direct contact [onsite@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:onsite@plymstockschool.org.uk). We are unable to accommodate requests at short notice so please ensure all requests for the following week are received as early as possible.

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

To safeguard the health of our workforce and keep as many staff and students in school as possible, we are delighted to report that we have now started Lateral Flow Testing for all adults who work at Plymstock School. The use of rapid lateral flow tests allow us to identify individuals with coronavirus (COVID-19) who do not have symptoms, which make up around a third of all cases. Finding asymptomatic cases, along with other infection prevention and control measures such as social distancing, can help us manage the transmission of the virus.

All adults who are regularly on site are tested twice a week in our dedicated Testing Centre. This is currently working with three testing booths and we have the capacity to extend this to seven booths for when we are fully open again and the testing of students commences. We will confirm details as soon as dates has been published for the return of all students.

Teachers and school staff are here to support students in all respects and we have urged students to do two things; to continue to engage in their learning and to keep talking to us about how they feel and how we might realistically be able to support them. To work as hard as they can, to be resilient but most importantly strive “to be the best they can be”.

The routine of attending remote lessons will continue to be very important for students until they are all able to return to being onsite and learning is so important to them, their wellbeing and their futures.

I will be in touch again with more information as I receive it. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or if we can do anything to support your child. Please continue to use the support email addresses, on the following page, to contact the School.

Thank you for continuing to support your children and the School, we appreciate the many thoughtful messages we continue to receive.

Yours sincerely



Rob Pearsall  
HEADTEACHER

# Staying in Touch

All school communication will continue through our MyEd messaging service and copies of key correspondence are available through our newsfeed on the schools website: <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/news/>

## What should I do if I have questions?

If your question is about your child's well-being then please continue to contact their Tutor, Assistant Head of Year or Head of Year.

## Communicating with Plymstock School:

You can use the following guide to help support additional enquiries for contacting staff: <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20-21-parent-communication-guide-latest-1.pdf>

If you have other questions, please email using: [info@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:info@plymstockschool.org.uk) and these will be directed to a member of staff to answer.

## Support with remote learning:

- Mr Sprengel, Deputy Headteacher, Strategic Lead for Remote Education,
- Mrs Louise Duff, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING FOR YEARS 7-9, [lduff@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:lduff@plymstockschool.org.uk)
- Mr Mark Taylor, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING YEARS 10-11, [MATaylor@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:MATaylor@plymstockschool.org.uk)
- Miss Liz Monelle, DIRECTOR OF POST 16 [emonelle@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:emonelle@plymstockschool.org.uk)
- Miss Evans, Associate Assistant Headteacher, SCHOOL OVERSIGHT OF DISTANCE LEARNING, [bevans@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:bevans@plymstockschool.org.uk)

## Support with on-site provision:

If you would like to request an on-site place for your child or have any queries, please contact [onsite@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:onsite@plymstockschool.org.uk) A member of staff will respond directly to your request within 48 hours

## Advice and guidance during the Covid pandemic

Our **one-stop page** that links to all information about can be found here:

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/advice-and-guidance-during-the-covid-pandemic>

## Information on Mental Health and Wellbeing can be found here:

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/positive-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

If you have subject-specific questions, related to support with Careers, Information and Guidance, please email Careers Advisor, Miss Tiff Linzell at [tlinzell@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:tlinzell@plymstockschool.org.uk)

## The Plymstock School Blog

with celebrations of student's work, can be found here:

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/headteachers-blog/>