



**4 March 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Re: Return to School – Standards and Expectations**

I am delighted to be writing to you all as final preparations are taking place to start to safely welcome back students to Plymstock School on a staggered return as of Monday 8 March 2021. This letter provides you with all the information you and your child will need to successfully make the transition back to school at the same time as providing you with clarity regarding the standards and expectations we place on all children and young people that attend Plymstock School.

Whilst we will acknowledge and recognise that every child and their family have had a different experience throughout this period of lockdown, we believe focusing on relationships, routines and rules will create the framework needed for all children and young people to reconnect with every aspect of school life.

Plymstock School prides itself in ensuring there is a climate of high expectations for all. At every opportunity, staff will specifically teach the standards and expectations that we wish to re-establish as quickly as possible, so that there is no further disruption to any child's learning. However, we cannot do this alone, and I ask for your support in helping the school ensure that your child is ready and prepared for the return to school by reinforcing the key messages that they will be receiving from us and which are highlighted in this letter.

## **Health & Wellbeing**

*Relationships are the most powerful mental health intervention to mankind” - Karen Triesman*

Plymstock School will place strong positive relationships at the heart of our recovery approach. This is to ensure all pupils and their families have the chance to reconnect with the school community, recover from any loss or trauma and develop the resilience to seek the many opportunities that lie ahead for our children and young people to flourish and pursue their personal and career aspirations.

Individuals from our school community may be experiencing a variety of emotions, such as anxiety, stress or low mood as a direct result from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our pastoral team will lead the way in ensuring all students and their families are supported in every way possible. We will continue to facilitate opportunities for children and young people to reconnect with their peers and adults at school, address and equip them to manage and respond to issues linked to coronavirus and provide support to help improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

As always, we will work closely with parents/carers at every stage and I would strongly encourage you to contact the school if you have any worries, concerns or questions regarding your child's wellbeing.

## Attendance & Punctuality

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils as of Monday 8 March. Pupils first day back at school will be in line with the phased return arrangements. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to send their child to school regularly where they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence, including reporting children missing from education to the local authority
- the availability of local authorities to use legal sanctions, including penalty notices and prosecution in court.

Parents/carers **MUST** inform the school by no later than 9.00am of any absence on the first day and each day thereafter using the following telephone number: 01752 402679. If no reason is provided for absence then this will be recorded as unauthorised.

If you need to report a **positive COVID-19** result, please **TEXT** our COVID-19 text number urgently on **(07975) 005633** immediately giving your name, your child's name and a number we can call you back on.

If you are concerned about your child attending school, the first port of call is to contact us. The school has specialist staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with health and local authority teams who may also be able to provide additional support.

## Behaviour for Learning

As of Monday 8 March, we will be re-introducing the whole school 'Ready to Learn' classroom rules. These are 10 explicit rules that all children and young people will be expected to adhere to in all of the lessons with all of their teachers. Where individuals fail to adhere to them, they will be issued with a warning from their teacher. If they continue to fail to adhere to the classroom rules, a second warning may be issued and they will be removed from their lesson and will be required to make their way to their year group improvement room. Parents/carers will be informed of this, so that this can be followed up at home. Further information will be sent to all parent/carers around the specific approaches that will be applied with regards to sanctions but also approaches to support improvements in behavior for learning.

## Equipment for Learning

Health and safety advice regarding equipment that is frequently used, such as pens and pencils, is that pupils should bring their own. In addition, failing to consistently bring all the equipment for learning will negatively impact their own learning and progress as well as potentially lead to low level disruption within the classroom, something that is not accepted at Plymstock School.

Tutors will be conducting equipment for learning checks every morning. They will expect all pupils to have the following with them each day for them to fully engage in their learning:

2 black/blue pens • A green pen (for making corrections to your work) • 2 - HB pencils • 2 - 2B pencils • Pencil sharpener • Ruler • Eraser • Glue stick • A scientific calculator • Colouring pencils • A pair of compasses • Protractor • A reading book

Any student who persistently fails to arrive to school with the correct equipment for learning, their tutor will contact parents/carers to discuss further.



## Uniform

Our policy regarding school uniform remains in operation. We have very high standards of all pupils with regards to them consistently meeting these. Our uniform expectations play a valuable role in contributing to the culture and ethos of Plymstock School and sets the tone for our school and wider community.

Latest guidance advises that uniforms DO NOT need to be cleaned:

- more often than usual
- using different methods

Plymstock School uniform is available to purchase online from The Schoolwear Shop and Trutex Schoolwear (see links below). They have a wide range of uniform currently in stock which is available for postal orders and click and collect.

<https://plymouthschoolwear.co.uk/product-category/school/school-plymstock-secondary-school/>

<https://plymouthonlinestore.trutex.com/store/department/39/Plymstock-School/>

We are mindful and considerate that individual circumstances may have changed or been impacted by the latest lockdown. If this is the case, please contact the school to work with us to support you and your child.

*For further information and guidance, please visit the school website page.*

## Mobile Phones

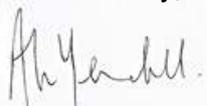
Plymstock School has a simple code for students to follow concerning mobile phones. These should be switched off and kept in the school bag during the school day. If a member of school staff hears or sees a mobile phone they will be expected to hand over their phone. It will be securely held until the end of the day when they can collect it from the Hub. Should a student have their phone confiscated more than twice, then we will require the parent/carer to collect it from school

## Physical Education

Students will not be permitted to use the changing rooms. All students will be required to wear their PE kit to school on days that they have PE. Students who do not have a Plymstock School branded top, bottoms or hoody may wear a plain navy or black jumper and plain navy or black tracksuit bottoms to school in order to keep warm. Only small, unobtrusive logos are permitted. In order to comply with safeguarding guidance— if a student does not have a Plymstock School branded top or hoody, they must also wear their school blazer on top of their kit so that they are clearly identifiable as a Plymstock School student at all times outside of their PE lesson.

In the meantime, if you have any further questions or require any clarification or additional information, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr A Yendell**

Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)

