



January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have all enjoyed a safe and enjoyable Christmas and I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. This message is a reminder of the arrangements that are in place for your child to return safely to school and to update you on new government guidance issued on 2 January.

### Staggered Return

The school has planned for students to return to school on a staggered approach due to the government requesting schools offer a Lateral Flow Test prior to returning for the Spring term. **This information was communicated on the 10 December 2021.** Please use the link <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/phased-return-of-pupils-in-january-2022/> to remind yourself of the arrangements that are in place.

### Timetable Changes

Due to some internal staffing changes, we have had to make timetable changes that will affect some students, particularly in Science. Please ensure that your child follows their timetable as shown on Satchel One whilst they are accessing remote learning as this is the up-to-date version. Students will receive a new printed copy on the day they return to school. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

### Updated guidance on face coverings

Last term we were able to remain open for all year groups despite some challenges. To ensure we are able to continue to do this, we must all take responsibility in adhering to the measures we have in place to minimise infection rates. **On Sunday 2 January the government announced that it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms.** This is in addition to the previous recommendation that face coverings should be worn in school corridors and other indoor spaces. We would also ask that students wear face coverings in the queue for the Galley. Face coverings must also be worn on all public transport.

Please ensure that your child has at least two clean face coverings with them each day and that you remind them of the importance of wearing a face covering during this time. We are aware that some students are unable to wear face coverings. As students move around outside between lessons and when outside at break and lunchtime this provides a good opportunity for them to remove their face covering and take a break from it.

### Updated guidance on self-isolation rules

You must not send your child to school if they demonstrate any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive on a LFD test. You must arrange for a PCR test and your child must not return to school unless a negative PCR result is received. New guidance states that the earliest students can return to school is on day 8 of their isolation if they test negative on a LFD test on day 6 and again on day 7 and providing they do not have a high temperature. If your child tests positive on day 6 they should continue daily testing and can return as soon as they have two negative LFD tests taken on consecutive days. Tests must be taken 24 hours apart. All students can return after 10 days isolation.

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 they can still attend school, but they should take an LFD test every day for seven days. If they test positive or develop symptoms they must isolate immediately, and you must arrange for a PCR test.

### Updated guidance on Lateral Flow tests

Even if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 on a PCR test within the last 90 days, the government now strongly recommends that they should carry out the regular lateral flow home testing that is recommended for all students as a measure to ensure we can keep our school community safe. This is different to previous guidance.

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school as we continue to work collaboratively to minimise any further disruption to the education of our students.

Kind regards

Mr A Yendell  
Headteacher