



Plymstock School

Achieving Excellence through Curriculum and Culture

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Dear Parents/Carers

Please see below a communication from the Director of Public Health - Plymouth

Dear Parents/Carers

The number of people who have covid across the city is still very high indeed. Although the infections peaked very early in January, they started increasing again - and are still going up. Although omicron is less severe than previous variants, these numbers are important because it spreads very easily, and a small but important percentage of people will become very ill with it- some in the short term, but some will go on to develop long covid. We want to get back towards normality - but we can't ignore covid when rates are this high.

Rates for secondary school age children are higher than we have seen before. We know that it is important for children to be in school, but the rates are so high that they are impacting this, both through individual children needing to stay home because they have covid, and through schools struggling to manage with high levels of staff sickness.

Our schools are doing the very best that they can to manage this, and we know that you are playing your part.

I wanted to thank you for that, but also to state again how important it is that we all continue to contribute to this challenge . In terms of keeping your children safe, we are finding that the regular use of lateral flow tests (twice a week, but daily if you have anyone at home with covid) has been vital in keeping covid levels down and enabling classes or year groups to remain in school. If you are asked by your school to undertake additional LFD tests it will make a difference to do so.

In line with government guidance a wide range of measures can still be used in schools where there is an outbreak and numbers are increasing rapidly or are very high. This can still include use of face masks as it will contribute to making a difference. I know that vaccines make a big difference in reducing serious illness for individuals and they also play a part in reducing numbers who become infected or infectious. It is therefore important, wherever possible, that eligible young people and adults are fully vaccinated.

I am very aware of how long this pandemic has gone on and we are all very tired and want a normal life back. It may be that we are moving toward that now but in the meantime it remains important that we all try and look after each other and keep each other safe. In doing so I want to state what an amazing job schools are doing and along with your support to them we will get through.

Ruth Harrell
Director of Public Health – Plymouth

Yours sincerely

Alan Yendell
Headteacher

