

Dear Parents,

What a roller coaster of a week it has been!

As we continue to see more people testing positive in our community, I am sure you join me in sending these families our best wishes. It can only be a good thing for all of us that some employment sectors are being proactive and getting employees tested as it allows all of us to take action and prevent further infection.

As you know we have had to isolate a class bubble this week. Whilst there is no official guidance, we would advise siblings of those isolating, to remain home as a precautionary measure. The child, and her family, who unfortunately tested positive this week, displayed no signs or symptoms. Please, let's work together to keep everyone safe.

We continue to provide remote learning for children at home and the Provision of On Site Education for those children whose parents are critical workers. This lockdown we have seen *4 times as many children* attending school, with this number rising.

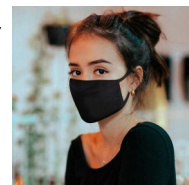


Matt Hancock (Secretary of State for Health) said last weekend "If one parent is at home or if there is alternative childcare, they should use that and also only attend school when the critical worker is at work (unless they are on nights of course). His rationale is to 'reduce contact between families'.

Whilst we love seeing children in school, it has been brought to our attention that some children are in school when their parents are at home and it is their non working day(s). Please, if you are at home and NOT working (different if you are a critical working and working from home or if your child is eligible to attend for other reasons) keep your child at home to learn remotely. The more bodies in school, the greater the risk for everyone. We will once again be requesting evidence from employers to confirm that parents who are critical workers are in fact, critical. Please be fair and help us to keep everyone safe.



In order to introduce additional control measures, from Monday we will be introducing temperature checking for children and staff, anyone with a high temperature (37.5+) will be requested to take a Covid-19 test. In addition to staff wearing face masks, should you wish your child to wear a face covering in class, please do so. We would ask if your child is coming to school with a face covering a sealable plastic bag is provided to store the face mask when not in use, such as whilst eating lunch. If however children start playing with the mask or repeatedly touching it, they will be asked to remove it.



In the event that we have to isolate further year groups we may be unable to offer the Provision of On Site Education in school, and I urge critical worker parents to have a Plan B to provide alternative childcare arrangements, should it be necessary. In the event that staff become unwell and unable to deliver live lessons, remote learning will continue using online resources provided by White Rose Maths, National Oak Academy, Timestables Rock Stars, Accelerated Reader and Spelling Shed.

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Finally, please can I reiterate the importance that if a member of your household displays symptoms, tests positive or is awaiting for test results, that children DO NOT come to school as this increases the risk of every member of our school community.

Many of you have taken the time to call or email with kind words that really mean so much. We are in this together, and as a school and community will support each other. Thank you for your understanding at this challenging time. Have a lovely (quiet) weekend.

Mrs Tustain

Attendance

Every day we will be keeping a register of those children of critical workers attending school as well as those children who are logged-in remotely at home.

If you know that your child is ill or for whatever reason will not be logging-on to their remote learning, please can you inform the school office in the usual way, by leaving a message on the school answer phone.

If we do not know where your child is, we will contact you to ensure the family are safe and well.

Thank you for your support.



Family Support Worker

We are extremely fortunate that we continue to have fortnightly support from Gaynor Winsor our Family Support Worker.

Gaynor has a wealth of experience supporting the needs of families and offers a friendly face and a listening ear. If you are feeling anxious or worried, please let us know and we will put you in touch.



Would you like to receive one of these?

If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please contact Mrs Tompkins or you can complete the easy and FREE checker to see if you are eligible, just click the link to apply: [Apply for Free School Meals - About this form - PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK \(achieveservice.com\)](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/achieveservice.com)

Click the link for suggestions on how to make nutritious meals with the free school meals parcels: [How to make delicious and nutritious meals with free school meal parcels - Plymouth Live \(plymouthherald.co.uk\)](https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk)



Pictured above - parcel for a family of two children



Pictured above - parcel for a family for one child

Using Teams to Communicate with Class

Don't forget that you can ask questions and discuss work with your class teacher or TA via the chat element in Teams.

Information regarding remote learning can be found on our school website via the below link:

[Remote Learning - Plympton St Maurice Primary School \(plympton-st-maurice-primary.org.uk\)](http://plympton-st-maurice-primary.org.uk)

Vodafone SIMS Card - Please don't forget

Vodafone have kindly allocated our school a number of SIMS cards, providing the user with 30GB of data for 90 days from the time of registration.

These are available to anyone needing assistance in accessing remote learning; your device will need to be unlocked or already registered to Vodafone. Please contact the office for more details.



Reading Support for Parents during lockdown

For help and support in ready during lockdown, please click the below links for some useful information:

[Get-Epic-Childrens-Guide.pdf \(plympton-st-maurice-primary.org.uk\)](http://plympton-st-maurice-primary.org.uk)

[Reading-support-for-Covid-parents-letter-Jan-2021.pdf \(plympton-st-maurice-primary.org.uk\)](http://plympton-st-maurice-primary.org.uk)

A large, colorful rainbow with seven distinct bands (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, red) arching over two white, fluffy clouds. The text "Free Wills for our Key Workers" is centered within the rainbow's arch.

Free Wills for our Key Workers

Accord Legal Services are proud to be offering FREE WILLS for NHS staff and other Key Workers as our way of saying thank you for their hard work throughout this pandemic.

For more information, contact Accord today on **0843 506 5115**,
or email info@accordwills.co.uk.