



### Information Regarding Covid 19

#### **Symptoms - Can I send my child to school if they are feeling unwell?**

Please find a helpful flow chart attached and on Page 4 of this letter which will help you to decide whether to send your child to school if they are feeling unwell. If you send your child to school with any of the symptoms in the red box on the chart, they will be sent home immediately. We understand how difficult this is, especially for working parents, but it is our duty to try to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.

The letter from Plymouth City Council which was posted on the website last week contained helpful definitions of a high temperature/fever and a continuous cough. These have been repeated below for ease of reference.

#### **COVID-19 Symptoms:**

- **high temperature** – feeling hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough** – coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different from normal

If your child is displaying any of the recognised COVID-19 symptoms, they must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when their symptoms started and you should arrange for them to have a test. Anyone that they live with must also isolate for 14 days from the day the child developed symptoms. Please contact the school with all information relating to the need for your child to self-isolate and their test results.

Testing Current national guidance states that a person should **only** have a COVID-19 test if they are **experiencing symptoms themselves**. If a child has been in **contact with a confirmed case**, they will be asked to stay at home and self **isolate for 14 days**. They do not need to be tested themselves according to current guidelines but **must not return to school even if they receive a negative test**. This is because they may not have developed the symptoms and may do so in the following 14 days.

We understand that the difficulty in getting a test is very frustrating but it is particularly important that we follow the guidelines so we can keep school open. The current routes to get a COVID-19 test is to either: Call 119 or; Book online by reading the guidance and following the links to the Government website:

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus)

If you cannot book a test immediately, keep trying. The system is very busy. If you cannot book a test it is important that your child stays away from school for the 10-day isolation period. This is part of keeping us a COVID-19 safe school. If you are not sure what to do or are worried about symptoms that someone in your family has, you can use the NHS 111 online virus service. The full government guidance can be found here:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

### **Educational Implications**

**Full details can be found on the school website in the document St. Joseph's Remote Learning Plan.**

### **[St Joseph's Remote Learning Plan](#)**

If your child is off school because they are unwell, they will not be expected to complete any school work and work will not be set. Before COVID-19, work would not have been sent home if a student was unwell. They are too ill to be at school and therefore could not be expected to work at home.

If, however, your child is in isolation, they may feel perfectly well and **should use Google Classroom to access their lessons**. These should be accessed during the school day and handed in before 3.30pm. Login details can be found inside your child's reading record. Please remember that home learning is **compulsory** for any child who is at home and not experiencing symptoms or other illnesses.

### **Bubble Closures**

As you will be aware from previous letters, we are operating in year group 'bubbles' to reduce the potential spread of the virus. If someone in the bubble receives a positive test result for COVID-19, we will follow specific advice from Public Health England (PHE). It is **likely** that we will be required to send all students within that bubble home to self isolate. We will communicate with parents and students affected and share the PHE advice with them promptly. If this should happen, education for students will continue virtually.

### **Update and Reminders**

Due to the ease with which children have entered school in the morning we are able to reduce to gap between Key Stages. Thank you for making this easy for staff, children and parents.

**Foundation, Year 1, Year 2      8.40 - 3.15**

**Year 3,4,5 and 6                      8.50 - 3.30**

***If you have a sibling in the younger years, please follow the 8.40 - 3.15 timings.***

We are pleased to confirm that hand-sanitising stations are in every classroom and at key points across the whole school site.

Everyone should remember that although sanitising is good, hand-washing with soap and water is better and hands will be washed when arriving at school.

Face coverings are worn by all staff (unless medically exempt) when in communal areas, corridors and speaking with parents at the end of the day.

If you have any queries, please communicate with us by telephone or email until further notice. In the meantime, we will do everything we can to keep a COVID-19 safe school and thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to support us to keep it that way. The government guidance for parents and carers with children in nursery, school, or college in the autumn term has now been translated and is available in the following languages: Arabic, French, Punjabi, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Romany Chinese – traditional Polish Somali Chinese – simplified Portuguese Turkish.

If the government guidelines change or there is a change in any of our plans, I will write to you again to keep you updated.

If you have any queries, please contact your child's teacher by email in the first instance.

