



Notre Dame Plymouth

Looseleigh Lane, Derriford, Plymouth, PL6 5HN

Tel: 01752 775101

Fax: 01752 768120

E-mail: info@ndonline.org

Website: www.ndonline.org

Twitter: [@ndplymouth](https://twitter.com/ndplymouth)

Facebook: [NotreDamePlymouth](https://www.facebook.com/NotreDamePlymouth)

Headteacher: Mrs Katherine White

Notre Dame educates the whole person: Head, Heart and Hands

Dear Parents/Carers,

24th September 2020

COVID-19 – An Update and Overview

I hope you are well and safe. Thank you for your continued support in getting all students back into school safely over the past three weeks. We are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your child to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all students to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all students catch up with any missed learning and what will happen if a student is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

I am writing to you today to keep you fully informed. **Please see the table on Page 3** which sets out information about current school provision and how we will deliver remote learning in the future should we need to. This letter will also be shared with staff, governors and will be published on our website.

As I am sure you are aware, the government are warning us of a potential second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and possible further lockdowns. I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you to explain what this might look like at Notre Dame so you can consider plans for you and your family.

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 sent home 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

Isolation

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 keep the school abreast of any information relating to the need for your child to self-isolate and subsequent test results. Please contact Mrs Cunningham, Attendance Officer via telephone or email: attendance@ndonline.org.

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. 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:
<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: <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

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, at the usual lesson times, which will be live streamed by their teachers. Please ensure your child knows how to access all of the Google Classroom pages for each of her subjects.

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. Staff have considered how to deliver valuable remote learning, based on an evaluation of the time spent teaching remotely from March – July. We have invested in new technology for all our teachers so that students who are at home self-isolating can benefit from having lessons live streamed by their teachers.

Update and Reminders

We are pleased to confirm that hand-sanitising stations have been erected across the whole school site, for students and staff to use when they are transitioning around the building. Everyone should remember that although sanitising is good, hand-washing with soap and water is better and hands should be washed especially when arriving at and before leaving school, and before and after eating. Hand sanitiser has also been placed at the entry/exit to every classroom for students to sanitise when they enter and leave their lessons.

Face coverings should be worn by all students and staff (unless medically exempt) when in communal areas and corridors. Please remind your child of the importance of this. We do not want to slip into complacency and put our community at risk by doing so. It is mandatory for everyone to wear face coverings when on public transport (unless medically exempt) for the duration of their journey, as laid out in government guidance. We have received reports from bus companies to say that students are removing their face coverings once they board the bus. This is not acceptable and is illegal.

Signage has been placed around the school to remind students to wear their face coverings and to clearly display where the hand sanitising stations are. Students must remember to always use the one-way systems and only socialise in the designated zones for their year groups. This information has been published in previous letters and in the Student Bulletin. Signage is also displayed in Sister J's and the Sunflower Café.

Please remember that parents/carers or visitors will not be permitted on-site currently, in line with our COVID-19 risk assessment. Contractors will be allowed on-site to complete essential works only and will work in line with our risk assessment and school policies. If you have any queries, please communicate with us by telephone or email until further notice.

Parents/carers who are dropping off and/or collecting their child from school should arrange a meeting point (by car or on foot) with their child away from Notre Dame Close to minimise the likelihood of crowding and infringements on social distancing requirements which put people at risk.

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 tutor by telephone or email in the first instance.

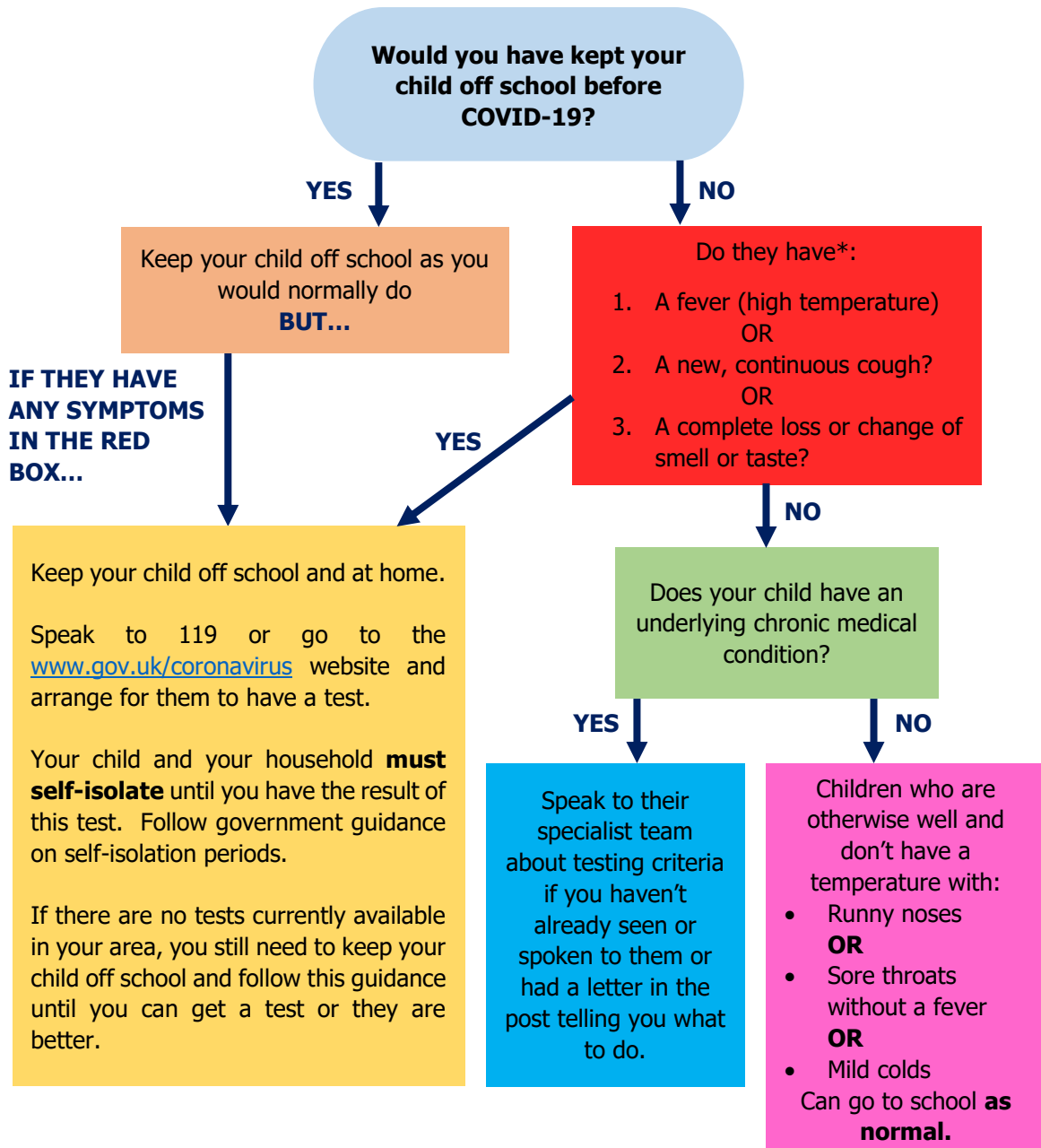
Yours sincerely,

K M White

Mrs K White
Headteacher

School re-openings	We are currently fully open to all year groups. Years 11, 12 and 13 are expected to attend at 9am for registration and to remain until 4.30 for Period 6 on Mondays to Thursdays. Years 7, 8, 9, 10 attend at 8.45 for registration and have a staggered departure from school as follows: Year 7 at 3.10, Year 8 at 3.15, Years 9 and 10 at 3.20.
Attendance	Attendance was at 95 % overall in Week 1 of the term and was 92% overall in Week 2.
Coverage of the curriculum	Full curriculum is being taught, but subjects changed which topics could be best delivered through remote learning during lock down, so subjects are now being delivered in different order to suit student needs. There is no reduced provision, apart from some extra-curricular clubs that were usually delivered in mixed year groups. Subjects are assessing gaps in students’ knowledge and skills through testing within lessons this term.
Remote learning March - July 2020	Remote learning was provided for all students in this period of time. It was completed positively and fully by 60% of all year groups in most subjects. However, 20% of students had some engagement in most subjects. 20% of students appeared not to engage with remote learning. Subjects with the highest levels of engagement across all years were Maths, English and Drama.
Remote learning in the future	Plans for remote learning, should it be needed from now on, involve live streaming lessons to all students at the timetabled time so that they can access remotely from home, even if they are self-isolating. We have invested in new technology to enable this and will be using Google classroom and Google meetings to enable it. The staff have undertaken training and have experimented with the systems to ensure they work. If some students are in school and some at home, then lessons will take place live in the classroom and will be streamed live to the home at the same time. Students will be expected to log in to their lesson at the correct time. In the event of a return to full lockdown, teachers plan to continue to come to school to deliver remote lessons professionally from their classrooms at the correct times on their timetables.
Mental health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - 1 Support from ND Pastoral Team, including Tutor and Head of House • COVID anxiety support – self-help booklet and 1 - 1 support • Young Minds - Website with a specific advice page for young people struggling with self-isolation, corona virus and its impact on mental health. https://youngminds.org.uk/ • Kooth - An online site that offers emotional and mental health support for children and young people aged between 11 – 24 years and is available up to 10pm every day. Website https://www.kooth.com • Young Devon - 1 -1 Counselling (telephone) • Bereavement support through Kaleidoscope Team • CAMHS referrals for Mental Health support

Covid-19 Symptoms Flowchart



*Covid-19 Symptoms:

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