



St. Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School

Brentford Avenue, Whiteleigh, Plymouth, PL5 4HD

Tel. 01752 217010 Email: admin@st-petersrc.plymouth.sch.uk

www.st-petersrc.plymouth.sch.uk



Through Jesus we love, we learn and we grow together

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 UPDATE

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12th July 2021 that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19th July. Despite the government announcement that all restrictions will be lifted from this date, the Trust has taken the following decision to protect staff, children and visitors.

- Current control measures remain in place until the end of the Summer Term (22nd July 2021)
- Bubbles remain in place wherever possible.
- Children or staff with a positive test self-isolate, but schools don't automatically send whole bubble home.
- Following a positive case in a bubble, school undertakes a best-endeavours risk assessment/contact trace evaluation of adults/children in that bubble. Individuals judged to be close contacts are asked to self-isolate for 10 days and take a PCR test.
- The school must be informed of a positive case; contact the office during school hours and email/private message on Dojo out of school hours.

Here is a reminder of our control measures:

- Five separate bubbles
- Limited shared communal areas
- Staggered breaks and start/finish times
- Thorough and regular cleaning of all surfaces which are touched regularly (tables, door handles etc.)
- Hand washing and sanitising throughout the day
- Essential visitors only
- No equipment or large bags to be brought into school
- Wear PE kit on PE days (day to be confirmed by teachers)
- Own water bottle and if you wish, own sanitiser (we will have lots in school)
- The rooms will be well ventilated
- Staff and visitors will wear face coverings in communal areas, when moving around school and when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Staff and regular visitors will continue to take the Lateral Flow Test twice a week.
- Parents and carers can only access the school building with prior arrangement
- Parents and carers, unless exempt, will need to wear face coverings when entering the school grounds
- All parents must drop off their child outside of the school gates unless alternative arrangements have been made with the school. Please do not gather outside of the school gates.

It is important for us all to conform to these measures. Your contribution to keeping us safe is really important and this will help keep the school open to as many children as possible.



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Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings

One of the key changes that will take place from 19th July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts. This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.
4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

Contact tracing

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.



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6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

7. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
8. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.
9. **From 16 August**, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above).

We recognise that this has been a challenging time for everyone and it is times like this that we all pull together and support one another. The St Peter's team would like to thank you for your continued support in keeping our school family safe.

Best wishes,

Mrs S. Plunkett
(Headteacher)

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