

Plympton Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to inform you about the recent release of the government NHS Covid 19 App which went live on 24th September. This app is available to download for anyone who is aged 16 or above through the Apple or Android store.

● The app has 6 key features that will help to reduce personal and public risk:

Trace – alerts the individual if they were in close contact with a confirmed case

● Alert – provides the individual with the risk level associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) in their local area, based on the postcode district they enter

● Check in – allows the individual to check in to locations via the app and official NHS QR codes

● Symptoms – allows the individual to check symptoms against government guidance and to get advice

● Test – allows the individual to order a free test and to receive results and advice via the app

● Isolate – provides an isolation ‘companion’, which counts down how many days they have left to isolate and provides links to useful advice

Bluetooth needs to be enabled on the phone as the app uses Bluetooth low energy to anonymously assess the distance, over time, between people who have downloaded it.

If an individual with the app tests positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19), the app will ask them to allow those that they have been in contact with to be alerted. If so, the app will then alert relevant individuals if they have been in close contact with a positive case. ‘Close contact’ is based on an algorithm, but generally means you’ve been within 2 metres of someone for 15 minutes or more. Individuals are not informed who the positive case is.

Should your child choose to download the app then they can make use of the app whilst in school whilst respecting the mobile phone policy. Students who receive an exposure alert should inform



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the nearest staff member. Members of staff on site will then check the nature of the message. It may become necessary for parents to collect their child and for the household to isolate for 14 days.

Should you need further information on the functionality of the app, please do see the [NHS website](#).

Yours faithfully

K. Kerr

Mrs Katie Kerr
Assistant Principal
and Head of Sixth Form Strategy