



## Abbey School

an academy within Nexus MAT

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



**INSPIRE...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE**

20.4.2020

Dear Families,

I hope you have managed to have a good Easter despite the challenges that we still face across the world currently. I know the staff have appreciated the 'break' from school as a way to establish routines and 'normalities' during this period with their own families so thank you for your patience with this.

We still find ourselves in a position whereby it is still unsafe to have the majority of children in school physically and I know this may add to some of your concerns and anxieties. I can only open the school physically when it is safe for the children, for staff and their families also and currently I am still unaware when this will be announced by the Government.

We have spent some time over Easter looking at the best possible options educationally for your children that are both accessible and give them time to work independently away from parents and carers to occupy them. We fully appreciate how hard it is to 'teach' your child at home and we would never ask that you replace the education they are missing. However, by your child spending time at home with family they are not only keeping themselves and others safe, they are learning to be team players, great communicators, able to understand how to give and take with members of their family, they are learning skills that actually sometimes we find very hard to fit time in school for such as gardening, cooking and cleaning. With this in mind we want you to remember the education for your children is far more than learning about English and Maths, its about all the enrichment activities that you are doing as a family during this time and I am sure that the children will all come back to school with a huge amount of new skills they have learnt from spending quality time with you. I have watched my own children spend hours on minecraft building theme parks and imaginary lands whilst talking to their friends. As a teacher if I unpick the skills that they are applying there is a huge amount of learning, so please don't be hard on yourselves during this time about your child keeping up or accessing school work.

This week class teachers will be calling you to see if there is anything we can support you with. If you wish you child to speak to their teacher for a while that is absolutely fine. Sometimes reconnecting back with their teacher is a great way to keep healthy minds. We have also further developed purple mash as a way to give children feedback either in a written form or a verbal message depending on their ability. All the children use purple mash in school so they are quite familiar with it.

We will of course be in contact with you if things change over the next few days or weeks however, I would advise listening to the daily Government briefings rather than the speculation on social media and within newspapers as this can sometimes add to the frustrations and anxieties that we are all feeling.

Hoping you all stay safe and mentally healthy over this period.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs L Windle

Executive Headteacher

