



## Abbey School

an academy within Nexus MAT

Little Common Lane, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 2RA

Tel: 01709 740074

[abbeyschool@nexusmat.org](mailto:abbeyschool@nexusmat.org)

[www.abbeyschool.co](http://www.abbeyschool.co)    [www.nexusMAT.org](http://www.nexusMAT.org)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



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26.5.2020

### **LETTER FOR THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE INDICATED THEIR CHILD WILL RETURN ON 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE.**

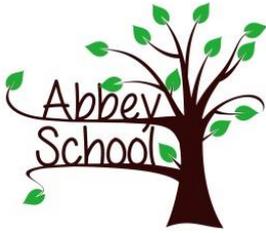
Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. During the last half term you indicated that you would like your child to return to school. The Government are now preparing to give us the advice on Thursday this week that they view it is safe to do so if we are able to use the social distancing rules as seen in shops and other organisations that are now opening also. I am sure you will understand the complexities that we face in doing this due to the ethos of the school environment but also the children's individual needs. I am writing to make you aware of the changes so that you are able to support your child before their return on what our school will look and feel like - I appreciate how much our children find change difficult. I have attached some photographs on how we have changed the classrooms to adhere to the social distancing rules however it goes without saying the children by nature of their needs will find this very difficult to adhere to.

#### **Changes to discuss with your child.**

- 1) When children come into school they will leave their minibus/taxi and walk round the side of the building entering via each of their designated classrooms. Once inside they will wash their hands in the classroom sinks. Any phones, ipads etc will need to be placed in the plastic boxes under their designated tables. We are sorry but our risk assessments state that children will not be allowed to bring in soft toys as we have had to remove any soft fabric equipment out of the classrooms that cannot be sanitised and wiped throughout the school day. This will be a change for the children as they usually arrive through reception and bring a variety of personal things from home.
- 2) They will be no breakfast club for children so please ensure your child has eaten before they arrive to school.
- 3) Children wherever possible will work outside in the fresh air as this is a recommendation from the Government. There will be areas of the grounds clearly marked for each class to play in. Again staff will encourage the social distancing rules but we appreciate the children will find this difficult.
- 4) Dinnertimes will not be in the hall as usual but delivered to the classrooms. School meals will be a packed lunch so that we can easily eat it outside should the weather be appropriate and that we are limiting the contact risk in the plates and cutlery. PE will also be outside rather than the hall. In order to minimise the movement of children around the school.
- 5) Water fountains will not be available for children to use again because of the any potential risk. Staff can fill children's water bottles up but we would ask that you provide your child with their own clearly marked water bottle and a cap/hat for outside. Could we also ask you to put sunscreen on your child in the morning.
- 6) Due to the mixture of ages in each of the classes, children will follow their relevant class online curriculum. Staff will be on hand to support your child's learning but they will have access to an ipad and laptop to help them with this online content. It is highly likely that your child will not be in their regular classroom or with their regular staff team. We have tried to put a familiar member of staff with each class but again staffing





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looks very different to what we would normally expect at Abbey.

- 7) Equipment cannot be shared between classes and must be limited with children also. To help us with that the youngest children will be allocated a marked area in the classrooms rather than a desk as the older children will have. Again this will be a change for our children as they are more familiar with choosing how they want to learn.
- 8) We suggest that you wash your child's clothes immediately upon their return home and wash their hands. This will help any risk entering into your homes.
- 9) We have tried to mark areas of the school as much as possible to support children when moving around school. These markings are very much like what you will see in the supermarkets at the moment.
- 10) If you are bringing your child to school yourself you will be expected to drop your child off in the car park at 9am and staff will walk them round to their designated classrooms. Unfortunately due to our risk assessments we are unable to allow families into classrooms or school at this current time. If your child arrives via local authority transport they will be dropped off in the school car park and again will be directed around to their designated classroom.

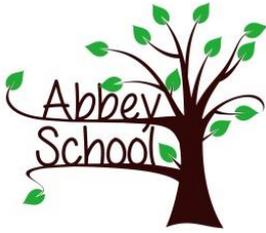
If you have any questions about your child returning please do not hesitate in contacting me via email. The 1<sup>st</sup> June is a long standing INSET day for staff which we will honour but we are preparing to start the reopening of the school from the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. I will also send home a new home school agreement that considers the changes. You must agree to these and send them back signed as they form part of our risk assessments for reopening the school. I hope that by September the school will look and feel as it normally does with the immersive classrooms and freedoms that the children enjoy on how they choose to learn, however I know you will also realise the potential risk that reopening a school during a pandemic has and understand the changes we have made are for the safety of the children, families and staff.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Luci Windle

Executive Headteacher.





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