



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

29.4.2020

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you well despite the rubbish weather and continued lockdown that we ensure Nationally to socially distance and keep the each other safe. It has been lovely reading your comments on the Abbey School Parents and Carers Engaging Together Facebook Group particularly how appreciative you all are for the small gifts we have been dropping off to each child. Although children have only officially missed 17 days of education up to today, it feels like a lifetime for some and a huge gap in their education. Certainly as a parent I can safely say they have been the longest 17 days I have ever experienced!

For those of you who follow the news and social media I am sure you will have seen articles about schools returning and what this may look like. It is worth noting there has been **no directive** from the Government about when schools will fully open and the situation still remains the same. However, as Headteacher and a parent myself I fully understand that our children cannot stay off school forever. The return to school will fill some families with sheer relief and others with dread hence why I am writing to you today to ask what it may look like for our school community. We currently serve 172 fantastic children whom have all had very different journeys through education, some better than others and each of them have their own daily challenges in terms of what and how they cope with their added disabilities some of which are hidden from diagnosis. As we attempt to plan what an anticipated return to school would look and feel like I would appreciate you sharing your opinions so that they can be incorporated into our planning and thinking moving forwards. I understand that this will be unique for most children due to their experiences in the past and over the last month or so hence why everyone should have the opportunity to express their thoughts, concerns, anxieties or worries. As always I cannot promise to make everything go back to how it was, but certainly your opinions do matter to us and will give us a starting point as and when we get the go ahead from the Government to reopen.

If you could email me any of your thoughts on my personal work email lwindle@nexusmat.org I am happy to consider suggestions.

I think many of us during the lockdown have had the luxury of time to reflect on things generally. One reflection that we as a staff have made over the past weeks has been the strength of our school community to work as a team together. The way in which you as families have coped not only with your children's disabilities but how positive your approach and outlook has been in dealing with children at home and the general anxieties of living through a pandemic has been overwhelming to see. Please continue to keep your family safe, wash your hands and stay at home, this won't and can't last forever.

I look forward to hearing your views. Stay Safe!

Mrs L Windle

Executive Headteacher

