



## 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**

27.4.2020

Dear Families,

As we approach our 6<sup>th</sup> week under lockdown it seems from the Prime Ministers speech this morning that things will remain the same for a while, certainly until the next review of the lockdown. I wanted to write to you to say what a great job I think we are all doing as a school community in looking after each other at this awful time. We do intend to drop off a small bag of goodies for your children this week just to help them know they are still part of the school community despite not coming physically in the building. I also know that teachers are busy calling you each week to check on you as a family, obviously this helps the school in our legal obligations to safeguard your children. If you feel you would like a member of staff to speak to your child during these phone calls please do put them on the phone although I know this may not be appropriate for all children and could cause more stress.

Staff are really trying to use purple mash to communicate with children over the coming weeks. It is through purple mash that your child can have secure personal feedback from any of their staff and participate in a whole range of learning opportunities. It is lovely to read your children's emails and have the opportunity to write back or send a verbal message through using this learning platform. As this 'virtual school' is new to us all we hope you will send feedback and suggestions on *what's working well* and *what would make things even better*. Only through doing this we can improve our practice.

I know so many of you are wondering and asking when the school will be open fully again, however until we have clear scientific guidance from the Government that your child, your family, staff and their families will be safe I am afraid we cannot open fully. We can provide a limited emergency service to active frontline key workers and vulnerable children, albeit we do have to measure the risk that coming into an open school environment compared to risks within the home present. With this in mind as much as respite for you may be what you feel you need it would not be classed as an emergency childcare need currently.

Please do speak to your class teams if you feel you are struggling but as I have said over and over most recently **it is ok to not be ok**. No one lives your life and copes with the demands that are placed on you so please do not compare how you feel you are doing to others that you see, particularly on social media sites. The fact that you are managing to keep your children at home to protect the NHS and save lives is good enough – you are all true heroes. Please do remember you are all in our thoughts and prayers particularly those of you who have faced significant loss during this time. Together as a school community we will get through this period of time and look back to see what a remarkable strong supportive school community we do have.

**Stay Safe!**

Mrs Windle

Executive Headteacher.

