



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

22.10.2020

Update letter

Dear Families,

Thankyou for your continued support during this challenging time for us all. It has been great to hear so many positive comments from you to class teams during the family consultations this week, it has certainly lifted staff as a whole.

Covid Cases

Unfortunately we have been 'struck' by covid within school in that there seems to be a connection now between staff cases resulting in 3 classes being sent home recently. Fortunately the staff are all experiencing very mild symptoms in loss of taste and smell with a slight temperature however I am sure you share my concerns about them and wish them a speedy recovery. These staff will return back to school after half term as they are currently self-isolating at home. We are fortunate in that only 2 children throughout the 3 sites have reported positive covid test results so we will continue after half term with the strict handwashing regime that we have in place.

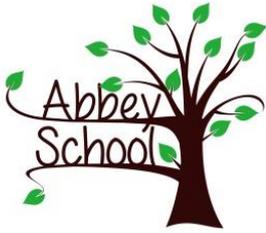
I know it is a constant worry to us all but I can reassure you that we are doing everything possible to protect the school community in these tough times. I have spoken to a few families who had specific questions so please do contact me if you would like to discuss anything. Can I also ask that you continue to be extra stringent as you have been over half term in washing hands, clothes and surfaces. I know the children and staff are all tired from our long half term so looking forward to spending time with our families. The majority of our families live within a tier 3 'very high' risk area for Covid, in this can I remind you that the rules that the Government have set for the areas that we live should be followed although I know that we are all making sacrifices that we are becoming weary about. The basic things such as hand washing and wiping surfaces will make the difference to us being allowed the freedoms that we have in the past. If you are at all confused by the rules please do contact school so that we can talk them through with you.

Face Shields

From next half term staff will be wearing clear face shields in class to ensure any possible transmission is reduced. All year 7 pupils and above are required to wear a face covering in school communal areas that are in tier 3 areas however due to our adaptations in the school building pupils are using the outdoor to move around school accessing classrooms from emergency exit doors rather than corridor doors. We hope to be back with a busy noisy corridors as soon as is safe to do so. We realise that some students will be exempt from wearing masks but if you would prefer your child to wear one during the school day please ensure they have a clean mask each day and let class teams know you would like this encouraged.

I hope those of you who requested masks have now received them. We had 200 masks donated by Shelagh's sewing circle so we are pleased we have been able to share them with you to support your own health needs. If you struggle to get a face covering please do contact school as we have a few of these left over.





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Road

On a happier note the road is well and truly on the way to being developed. We can now see the outline of the road that leads up to school on the main site. I know those of you that have been with us for a few years will be as pleased as we are to knowing the completion date is in December this year. Thankyou to the Nexus team for their continued support in getting not only the funding but also the plans passed and development started.

Main site playground

The completion of the playground should be towards the start of November with the arrival of our pirate ship happening next week. We are so excited about it finally being open as a safe space for the lower school pupils particularly as the classroom doors for 4 classrooms lead straight out into it.

Horizon Hub

The hub based at Horizon is growing steadily with new the new pupils settling quickly into the routines of the school. We made a decision to keep children in the hub to restrict any possible transmission of covid from the wider school in September. This will continue after half term to ensure we are keeping children as safe as possible in such a big school however specialist teachers are delivering in the hub to ensure the curriculum is wide and meets need. It is lovely to hear how new friendships are being made and how much the students are now enjoying school. The Hub has its own designated minibus based at Horizon that can be used for community visits. We look forward to seeing our Horizon Hub students on the main site as and when it is safe to do so.

WAVEE

The WAVEE students continue to amaze us, settling back into routines so quickly. Although work experience has been very limited this half term we hope we will be able to get students back out into the community more once it is safe to do so. This year we celebrated one young person's success by him securing a full time paid job with Street pride. Im sure you will join me in wishing him every success in his new career. All the students that left WAVEE in July are settled into their new adult provisions and doing extremely well in their first half term.

Can I use this opportunity to thank you all for your support and kind words this half term. It has been a hugely trying time for us all but your words of encouragement have given myself and the staff the courage, enthusiasm and strength to continue despite all the challenges we have faced as a school community.

As we approach half term could I would like to share with you a Charlie Macksey quote that was posted on the school twitter page, it read ***"There are dark clouds' said the boy, 'Yes but they will move on.' said the horse, 'the blue sky above never leaves."*** I think this reflects the feelings that we all share at the moment but important to acknowledge that the strength we have as a school community continues to shine.

Thankyou for your continued support.

Mrs L Windle

Executive Headteacher

