



## Abbey School

an Academy within Nexus MAT

Little Common Lane, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 2RA

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



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

Update For Families – 07/10/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your response to our one confirmed case yesterday. As a parent I understand how worried you must all be feeling so I wanted to write to you to explain how we are dealing with any potential Covid cases and also what we have put into place to reduce risks.

As you know the Covid symptoms we should all look out for are the following-

- A dry persistent cough
- A high temperature
- A loss in sense of smell or taste.

If anyone in your household has these symptoms you **must get a test within 5 days of the symptoms starting and isolate all members of the household** – this means you are unable to leave your home at any time, apart from to access a Covid test.

I cannot reiterate enough the importance of washing your children's hands, clothes and promoting the use of face masks if using LA transport. It is also hugely important that you contact school if you have any worries about your child or if anyone in your household has had to be tested for Covid. By doing so we can help each other to keep as safe as possible.

### What are we doing in school to keep safe?

We continue to use various products, for example Zoono, for the 24-hour hand protection and also basic hand washing and hand sanitising on top of this. Rooms are cleaned throughout the day by staff who wipe all surfaces and the general shared areas, such as reception, and door handles are cleaned by the site team. We have increased the ventilation in classrooms by installing doors in all but 3 of the rooms on the main site to avoid the use of corridors. Each of the sites are kept in their own bubble and staff movement between these is kept to an absolute minimum. Where staff do have to cross bubbles for curriculum/safeguarding/health and safety purposes teachers keep 2 metres away from children to ensure transmission is as limited as possible.

Hand sanitising stations are placed at all the entry points in and out of classrooms, staff on all 3 sites carry hand sanitiser on them at all times. Besides the general end of school day cleaning, the classrooms are 'fogged' each day – this is a chemical that is sprayed into the room that ensures it is left in a sanitised state ready for the next day. Where we have a suspected case, we would remove the children from that room, sanitise it immediately and return it back into use after the 1 hour settling time as per instructions.





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We have increased the social distancing rules in school, particularly for anyone waiting for children outside reception, by spraying dots on the floor. Please can we ask that you adhere to this strictly. At arrival and home times, all staff wear face coverings to protect them and the transport staff from cross contamination. If staff or children choose to wear a mask in school they are allowed to do so. Staff training is delivered online and we do not meet as a whole school staff as we would usually do so, again this is to stop any potential transmission.

### What happens if there is a suspected case of Covid in school?

If anyone displays symptoms in school they are taken immediately to a separate room on each site and family are contacted to pick them up. It is strongly recommended that the individual is then tested. Where families are struggling to access a test, school will support them in gaining one. If a whole class has to isolate due to a positive case, all students are taken to a designated room and collected immediately by families. Any staff that have been within 2 metres distance to the positive case for longer than 15 minutes are also isolated with the class and sent home for 14 days as per government guidance. If at any point these 'isolating individuals' develop symptoms at home it is important that the whole family then isolate together and the individual with symptoms gets a test.

Due to the school being relatively small we are unable to give direct information about anyone who has tested positive. In mainstream schools, usually a year group will be given or a specific class, this is not the case for us as we have to protect the identity of the individual. A letter will be sent immediately to the affected families and a follow up general letter to the remainder of the school slightly later on the same day. If you require further advice please do email myself and I shall inform you whether your child is at immediate risk or not.

Can I use this opportunity to reiterate that if anyone in your household has had a Covid test they must not return to school until the test result is returned as negative.

### What do I do if I am worried about my child returning to school?

We must remember that for the vast majority of the population, Covid is a mild illness however as a parent again I fully understand your concerns and worries. Please do call your staff team members who can help you with your concerns and work through any problems you may have.

I hope this letter helps support any of you who are worried and concerned and you feel reassured that we are doing everything possible to keep both children and staff safe.

Thank you for your continued support at this challenging time.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Luci Windle

Executive Headteacher

