



## Abbey School

an Academy within Nexus MAT

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



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### Update For Families 04/11/2020

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on school news in particular about Covid related matters and the National Lockdown that we all face from today.

### National Lockdown – what does it mean for Abbey Families?

*“On Saturday 31 October the Prime Minister announced [New National Restrictions](#), which come into force on Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, to control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The government continues to prioritise the wellbeing and long-term futures of our children and young people and will not be closing early years settings, schools, further education (FE) colleges or universities. It remains very important for children and young people to attend, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school. Schools have implemented a range of protective measures to make them safe.”*

**Childcare or education is one of the exceptions that children, young people and parents and carers can leave their home for.**

### How are school responding to the latest guidance?

We receive guidance regularly from the Government often several times per day and try our best to decipher this guidance and feed it back to you as families. Currently we have updates on ventilation in school. Now the weather is increasingly cooler, we are using a strategy whereby the classroom doors are closed to prevent the loss of heat, but pupils and staff take a break each hour away from the classroom to allow the air in the room to be replenished. This prevents the build-up of the virus occurring in enclosed spaces. Please ensure your children are suitably dressed now the weather is colder as they will still be going outside for these breaks.

Staff are wearing clear plastic face shields whilst teaching and adding a face covering when they leave the classroom environment. We are encouraging children from Year 7 and above to wear face coverings in school in communal areas but appreciate that many of our children have difficulties wearing them for prolonged periods of time. Could I please ask you to make a conscious effort to send your child in a face covering whilst on the transport to and from school.

We have spoken to families who have children with Downs Syndrome and Kidney disease as the latest guidance from the NHS is that these identified children are now being advised to shield. New shielding letters are being sent out to families so please ensure you let school know if your child receives them. Although this is advice and not law I feel it is important that you follow the medical advice as closely as possible to prevent complications related to Covid however, it is ultimately your decision as a family on whether to shield or not.

### Covid Symptoms within a household

I cannot reiterate enough to you all that the only way to keep school open and keep staff and their families safe is to keep your child at home if **anyone** in the family is displaying symptoms. The member of the family showing symptoms must get a Covid test and depending on the results will then be allowed to send their child back into school or not. We are happy to advise but please use a cautious approach in order to protect each other.

### Playground update

Finally the pirate ship has arrived and is causing great excitement on the main site. It is slowly being put together piece by piece so we hope to be using it very soon.





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### Main School Road update

The road is also very close to completion. This will allow us to have a one-way system using the old and new road as we now have the old playground as additional parking facilities.

### Electronic devices

We have increased our electronic devices so that the older pupils have a device in which homework can be completed on. We ask that you complete the home school agreement that will be sent out soon so that a device can be sent home each day. Year 11 in particular have a challenging year in the sense that GCSE examinations are still expected to go ahead despite the pupils losing time in their courses due to Covid. Please do try to support us with homework as much as you are able to. Even a little bit of reading for all the children each night goes such a long way.

### Christmas Organisation

As the Christmas period slowly creeps up on us we are thinking how we can continue to celebrate in a safe and meaningful way. Unfortunately the regular family events are cancelled such as the school show and Winter Wonderland based at St Thomas Church Hall. However, we intend to develop a Christmas Winter Wonderland outside in the school woods where children can still see Santa in a socially distanced way. We promise to take lots of pictures to send to you. We will also perform an Upper/Horizon Hub show and a lower school nativity but this will be dependent on the video going onto YouTube. We will be sending clearer guidance and permission forms out to you very soon in relation to the school show as we realise some children cannot be on the video in person but may have permission to use their voice as an alternative. Christmas dinner will be spent as a class family dinner this year as we are unable to have our whole school Christmas meal together this year. We will also be wearing our Christmas jumpers as we have in previous years for the Christmas dinner. Christmas cards will still be allowed to be sent into school and posted in the school post box we will keep them for several days so that they will be virus free. Further details on Christmas specific events will be sent out closer to the time.

Despite the continued challenges we face I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support over this time - it is a true reflection of the strength of our community and I am sure we will soon feel more positive if we continue to share the hope we have together as a school. As always please do call school and speak to us if you are struggling you are never alone in this.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs L Windle  
Executive Headteacher

