



Abbey School

an Academy within Nexus MAT

Little Common Lane, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 2RA

Tel: 01709 740074 Fax: 01709 553465

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www.abbeyschool.co www.nexusMAT.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



INSPIRE...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE

Update For Families 20/11/2020

Dear Families,

Covid related matters

I hope you are well and managing through the 2nd National lockdown. I would not be doing my job properly if I didn't take this opportunity to remind you all that the only reason to leave your house is for a Covid test, for medical appointments, if you are unsafe or fearing for your safety in your own home, for daily exercise, for work reasons (if this cannot be done at home) or for essential supplies such as food.

Family households should not be mixing with each other and only existing childcare arrangements can be used at this time to prevent the continued spread of Covid. It is essential we stick to these rules so as to allow us to return to some normality in the near future, so please, to protect your family and our families, no parties and gatherings and no unessential travel to different parts of the country. Thank you to so many of you that are sticking to these rules so rigidly, I know it is challenging and I understand the impact it is having on us all.

If you are struggling due to financial changes in terms of the family home please do contact me at school, I hope you know we will do all we can to support you during this period of time. Likewise, if you are struggling to access facial coverings, give the school office a call and we will try to get some sent home for you. Wearing a face covering on the minibus makes a huge difference to the safety of everyone who is on there, so not only are you protecting your own child but you will be protecting all the other families and households on that minibus or taxi.

We continue to take advice and updates from both Public Health and the Government and have continued to deep clean the classrooms and social areas within school to ensure we are limiting the risk as much as possible. Pupils are going outside more often than they have in previous years to support the risk of any airborne transmission but the weather changing is not on our side so please do try to send your child with a coat and a change of shoes or clothes dependent on their age. Hopefully then we will try as much as possible to stop your houses becoming full of mud and dirt. I do apologise that we send your children home full of mud sometimes, but I can assure you that they are spending time outside in the fresh air, learning and making happy memories.

I know as parents we all dread the 'standard' Covid letter dropping through our inbox but I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that everyone in the school community will be alerted to a positive Covid case, but only the affected families who then need to isolate their children will receive a slightly different letter and a personal phone call from staff explaining the situation. There is an easy to read explanation on who should isolate available on our school website <http://abbeyschool.co/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Covid-Guidance-Stay-at-Home.pdf>

In short, if anyone in the household has symptoms you should all isolate until test results have been received. If you are struggling to get a Covid test please call the school we will obtain one for you.

Christmas Period Updates

As you will now know, the typical #teamabbey Christmas activities will look different this year due to Covid restrictions. However we will be having a Winter Wonderland experience for our children set up in the school wooded area and Santa will be paying a visit (in a socially distanced way). We will take lots of videos and pictures for you to share for your memory boxes. If anyone has any old cd's that they do not want please send them into school so that they can be used for decorations.





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Christmas dinner will be on the 17th of December and pupils will stay in their bubbles rather than have the big whole school gathering that we would normally have. The Lower School Christmas show will be videoed and put onto the school YouTube channel. A permission form has been text out today to ensure only children who can be on social media are on there and those that aren't, contribute using their voices anonymously for example. Upper School are also performing individual Christmas adverts, again these will be on the YouTube channel.

Lion Reader Leaders

We would like to keep reminding you about our Lion Leader Reader initiative that encourages your children to develop a love for reading. Research shows that reading to your child makes a huge difference to the development of their speech and language. Listening to your child read for 5 minutes every day also develops these skills and builds a lifelong sense of confidence in all of us, so please can we ask that you try to read as much as possible with your child. There will be competitions coming up to encourage your participation in our reading initiatives for example, name the #teamabbey lion, design a costume etc. We would love to see as many of you as possible get involved in this.

Final Thoughts

As always, I'm sure you won't be fed up of me reminding you all that you are not alone whilst going through this strange and difficult period of time. I know we have developed a daily anxiety and worry and find ourselves in a position whereby we may be grieving for family and friends we have lost or who are seriously ill but it is our collective responsibility to look after each other as a true 'team'. I would hate to learn that our families and staff have been struggling when we are here to help you so please do pick up the phone, send a message or make contact with school.

Please do continue to follow the rules and take care of each other.

Mrs L Windle
Executive Headteacher

