



Abbey School

an Academy within Nexus MAT

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29.11.21

December Update Letter

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I am writing to update you on the continued challenges that we face throughout the Covid pandemic. Once again, the reports we see and hear in the press continue to worry us in terms of the health risk that it poses to us, but also the uncertainty of what will happen next and if Christmas will go ahead as planned. We are now in a position to once again request that you tighten your approach to wearing masks on transport, within the school and outside the classroom for students year 7 (aged 11) and upwards. The risk to children on transport is high, particularly given that windows are not often open so ventilation is poor and there is a lack of social distancing. We will encourage children to wear masks when moving around school to prevent any outbreaks of Covid and will continue to test them twice weekly in school. Should you need any testing kits at home please do contact reception or visit your local pharmacy. It is hugely important that we continue to test our school community regularly to keep ourselves safe.

Safe Internet Use

We have certainly seen an increase in our children using the internet and social media over the past 2 years. Could I remind families about the rules we have in school in terms of mobile phones. Any devices that are brought into school should be handed over to the class teacher in registration and will be returned to your child at the end of the day. If your child is found with their mobile phone on them it will be removed and kept overnight at school. If this rule continues to be exploited we will ask you to come into school to collect your child's phone. The reason why we are strict with this approach is due to having children on protected placements here at school. Their education and home placement would be compromised should their name or picture be associated with Abbey School – so please ensure you remind your children about these rules. Could I also remind you to regularly check your child's phone. We often find that children are emailing staff at the early hours in the night which is disruptive to their sleep pattern. If you are unsure on how to check your child's phone please do call school and we will support you with this.

Whisper App

Being in a special school, particularly when we have children from 5 different local authorities, is a challenge in terms of staff knowing the children's local communities and for families to speak to staff about their community worries. If you do have any worries at all please do not hesitate to use the whisper button. As has been reported in the press recently, Child Sexual Exploitation is unfortunately increasing and very much relies on the community reporting concerns to school. The Whisper app on the school website (at the bottom of the main page) is an opportunity for you to pass on information / worries/ concerns either anonymously or through using your name so that this information can be dealt with or sent to the relevant professional agency.

I do hope that together we can approach Christmas and the New Year with the continued support and kindness we have all become accustomed to at #teamabbey.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs L Windle
Executive Headteacher

