



Abbey School

an academy within Nexus MAT

Little Common Lane, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 2RA

Tel: 01709 740074 Fax: 01709 553465

abbeyschool@nexusmat.org

www.abbeyschool.co www.nexusMAT.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



INSPIRE...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE

18^h March 2020

REF –GOVERNMENT CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, the outbreak of COVID-19 Coronavirus has now been declared a world pandemic and the situation in the United Kingdom is being carefully monitored by the government with daily updates. Yesterday the Government told schools to close their physical doors and offer online learning for most pupils. They also asked schools where possible to provide some education / care for the most vulnerable in society.

We fully understand the pressure that this Government decision places on you all as families, however as a school we have to take the advice given and act accordingly. It is with the deepest sorrow that I have made a decision to close the physical doors of Abbey on Friday 20th March 2020 to most children and offer them an alternative online curriculum for the foreseeable future. I have taken this decision from Government advice and also due to the vast majority of staff having underlying health conditions as identified in the key group that the Government have advised to socially isolate. As the Headteacher I am hugely proud of the staff for their commitment and resilience over the past few weeks in which we have found ourselves working and living in tremendously difficult conditions. Children who fall within the following groups will be provided an on-site education/ childcare option and will receive a phone call from myself to discuss what this offer will be;

- Parents who work in key employment areas e.g. NHS, Social Care etc as identified in the pupils admission form.
- Looked after children whereby the placement is not secure.
- Have a key agency worker.

You will see on Monday that the school website has changed format and provides your child with an online curriculum where work will be set by teaching staff. Your child has also taken work home recently along with a login for purple mash, our online educational tool. Purple Mash can be accessed via this link www.abbeyschool.co where you will find the purple mash logo. Your child should have returned home with a username and password for this programme. Your child should also have a copy of their homework menu for activities that they can complete. I would encourage you to look frequently at the school twitter pages which again can be accessed via the homepage on the school website. As parents of children who have additional needs we understand that you may not be able to complete the online or paper based work due to their needs and disabilities. We would only encourage you to keep tempting them with this as we are unsure at this point when we will reopen.





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I realise that this is an uncertain time and the situation is developing quickly. Please be assured that we will do everything we can to keep any disruption to your child's education to a minimum. As and when we find out new information we will share this with you via text message, twitter, website and the Abbey School parents and Carers Facebook page. You are welcome to also email staff as your yellow contact sheet indicates.

If you feel your child falls into one of the identified groups please feel free to call me. Likewise if you feel anxious and concerned please do not hesitate in contacting myself or another more familiar staff member in school. During this time your child will have an 'exceptional circumstances' code in the register so this will not affect their attendance percentage overall as they will be authorised to stay at home. I will be sending a 'questions and answers' letter home shortly that will give you information on the many questions I would imagine you all have at this time.

As a staff we cannot thank you all for your positive comments that we have received whilst we have attempted to stay open however, we now find ourselves in a position whereby the health of the staff and their families prevents them from providing the education as it would normally be for your child. I apologise once again that this may not be the news that many of you were expecting but promise we will give you weekly updates on re-opening as and when staffing/ Government updates allow us to do so safely.

Yours sincerely

Luci Windle
Executive Head Teacher

