

## Abbey School

an academy within Nexus MAT

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



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

19.5.2020

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. There are a couple of things that I am wanting to let you know as we move forwards into the half term break.

**Family Fund-** The DfE have announced a new £37 million fund to support children with complex needs.

I'm not exactly sure of the criteria, but more details from the DfE are here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/37-million-to-support-children-with-complex-needs>

and on the Family Fund website, here: <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/> #teamabbey families have used this scheme before so I would imagine the criteria is still open for you that need support.

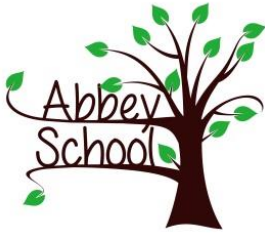
**Half Term Holiday** – A reminder that we have no plans to open for emergency childcare over the half term holiday.

**1<sup>st</sup> June Training Day** – For the few families who have indicated that they wish their child to return after half term the 1<sup>st</sup> June has been earmarked as a training day for all staff so these identified children will start back on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Unfortunately we have had a long term commitment to a training provider that can be taught virtually hence the training day.

**Return to school** – Most families have decided not to send their children back to school until September. It may be that the National picture changes somewhat between now and the rest of the school year and families feel safe to send their children back to school if this is the case please do speak to school directly. If you are one of the few families returning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June I will be issuing a new home school agreement that will need to be signed and returned to school before your child returns. This forms part of our risk assessment for each child and the staff looking after them. School will look very different compared to our normal offer due to the social distancing rules we have to adhere to. As was discussed with you also the classes will be mixed with pods of teaching staff changing each week. In the spirit of being transparent and fair to you I feel it important to reiterate this as I know so many of our children find change difficult. Children will stay in their allocated classrooms for dinner and lessons but will have an allocated area outside should the weather continue to be nice.

**Online Curriculum** – If you have chosen like many families Nationally to not send your child back to school in June, we will continue to offer our online curriculum as it is now with check in phone calls and occasional face to face doorstep check ins. As always if there is anything that we could do to make this curriculum offer easier to use or something we are missing please do let us know. It is important that you know it is there to help you and be used as much or as little as your family need. Please do not feel under any pressure to use the resources. If you would prefer paper copied and don't have access to printing please do let your class team know and they will organise a doorstep drop off for you.





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**September return** We have listened to many of your suggestions that children return to this years class in September to help them settle back into school routines before they move to their new classes. Normally we have the last 2 weeks of the school year dedicated to transitions for children already placed at school and those joining us. With this in mind we are wanting children to return to their usual class teams for the first week and then during the second week we will have our transitions starting. In essence we will start our school year in the third week of September. This is due to the situation that we find ourselves in, your thoughts as families and to re-establish the attachment links that children have with their classes, staff and school.

Obviously the daily changes to the current situation have taken precedent over planning for September so we will be letting you know which classteacher your child has for September before we break up as I know the anxiety that many children and families have about this. There will also be an opportunity to meet the classteam in September transitions week but please rest assured that staff teams have opportunity to hand over all information to new classteams before transitions start.

Can I also use this opportunity to pass on a huge thankyou from all the staff at #teamabbey for the support you have given to us as a school community since the middle of March, you have not only protected your own children but also protected the families of the staff also. Your enthusiasm and positivity has been endless and very much kept the staff team motivated so thankyou on all counts here.

I hope you have a great half term, I look forward to welcoming some children back physically on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June and the vast majority virtually.  
Stay Safe

Mrs Luci Windle  
Executive Headteacher

