



Abbey School

an Academy within Nexus MAT

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www.abbeyschool.co www.nexusMAT.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



INSPIRE...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE

UPDATES FOR FAMILIES 22/09/2020

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. Can I take this opportunity to commend and thank you on behalf of all the staff for your sensible and honest approach to dealing with attendance for your children in school. As a staff team we really do feel our families are supporting us by getting any symptoms tested and seeking the help and advice where unsure. A huge thanks for this!

As you will have all seen, a second wave of the virus is seemingly upon us and we are being asked by the Government to make further changes to our lives to limit the transmission of the virus. As a school we continue to follow this advice and amend our risk assessments accordingly to ensure we are doing everything possible to firstly protect children and staff but also offer an enriched curriculum where their wellbeing is the priority.

I wanted to give you some updates on things that are happening in and around the sites to ensure you are kept up to speed at this challenging time.

Main site Road

We now have a proposed start date for the road which is the 28th September. Works will take approximately 10 weeks and there will be limited disruption to the existing road at high usage times. We seem to have now settled on a drop off and pick up system that is working for the main site. Any feedback from parents/carers who drop their children off is greatly appreciated via email.

EHCP Annual Reviews

All families on the 3 sites will be offered EHCP Annual reviews which can be face to face onsite with appropriate social distancing measures in place, virtual on zoom/teams or via the telephone. This is based upon the feedback families have given about their anxieties regarding Covid but also to give everyone the opportunity to take part in the reviews. You will be contacted by Amy in the office to discuss which option is best for you closer to your child's review date.

Online curriculum

Due to the unprecedented times we are currently experiencing we have maintained our online curriculum on the school website. If your child is asked to work from home (isolating) we will offer them a personalised package of work, if we have a situation in which a 'bubble' has to isolate, we will once again add the work onto the online curriculum. Trying to manage teaching the children and offer an online curriculum is a challenge for staff wellbeing which is why the online curriculum will only be updated if a 'bubble' is needed to isolate at home. We are working hard with the pupils for them to have a greater understanding of Purple Mash to ensure they have the skills to work independently whilst being supported virtually IF we need to implement the virtual curriculum again.

Lower School Playground

The lower school playground on the main site will be completed towards the middle of October. We are only now awaiting the arrival of the pirate ship that the school council wanted to add.





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Family Online Workshops

We will be offering some family online workshops very soon (look out for the letter from Mrs Berry). These short sessions will support families understanding of Purple Mash, the School Website and E-safety, for example. It would be lovely to see you all (albeit virtually) at these sessions. We hope to extend these sessions to include outside speakers such as the Educational Psychologist very soon.

Virtual Parents Evening

This year we are unable to hold our family days and family/teachers meetings in school so these will be held virtually. You will be sent a form which offers you the choice of a phone call or a virtual video meeting. This will take the place of the short parent/teacher meeting we would usually have during this Term.

Timing of the school day

To ensure we are not missing on any learning time we have changed the school day slightly for our main site pupils to keep in line with Horizon Hub and Post 16. These changes will not affect any learning time or opening and closing times. For further details please see <http://abbeyschool.co/index.php/school-information/curriculum/the-school-day>. Horizon Hub and WAVEE Post 16 will still keep to their 'normal times'.

Disability Sports Yorkshire - School of the Year.

On a positive note we have been nominated for a prestigious sports award by Disability Sports Yorkshire. This is for the PE offer that we have in school and the support we give to other settings for inclusive PE. The final is broadcast online this Friday so we will let you know if there is an extra trophy in our cabinet!

Please do continue to monitor the Government guidance to ensure our school community stays safe. If you are confused at all about the guidance please do not hesitate in contacting us so that we can explain things a little better.

Can I finally take the opportunity to once again thank you for your continued support over this challenging time. Despite everything that is happening in the outside world there is a calm oasis of positive children and young people on all 3 sites that you as families should be very proud of. Please do remember we are all in this together, you are never alone and we are only a phone call away for support.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs L Windle
Executive Headteacher

