

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

January Update Letter 04/01/2021

Dear Families,

I hope your Christmas has gone as well as expected and this letter finds you safe and well. I wanted to ensure you had the most up to date hence leaving this letter until the day before we are expected to return. I hope that the following questions help your understanding of the situation in terms of returning to school, however please note that the Government advice is changing rapidly so we will make every attempt to understand the situation as fully as possible.

We are expecting to have all children back on Tuesday 5th January 2021, however I understand and have already spoken to some families who wish to send their child back at a later date considering the risk in transmission and holiday contact / household mixing over Christmas risks. In this situation I have agreed to review attendance for each of these children at weekly intervals in line with National Guidance.

Where can I find the school risk assessments for Covid?

You can find them on the school website where they are kept up to date regularly as the guidance changes.

<http://abbeyschool.co/index.php/closure-notice/>

What do I do if I do not feel it is unsafe to send my child back to school?

We understand the worries and concerns that we all have about returning to school however the Government feel that schools are safe for all children to attend given the systems and procedures we have put into place. If you are concerned please do call school so that we can talk through your concerns. We have been given some attendance flexibilities by the Government until the 18th January. If your child has an underlying health condition then your GP or Consultant will advise you to shield your child at home. We ask that you provide the shielding letter or we can speak to the school nurse for confirmation of this medical advice.

Can I expect my child to receive their full curriculum at school during this half term?

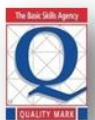
The only restrictions we currently have are visiting places beyond our school site and swimming lessons currently in line with National Guidance. The other lessons and subjects your child receives should remain the same.

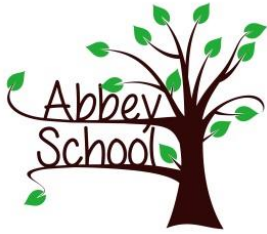
What will happen if my child's teachers are not in school?

Last half term we had a significant number of staff absent from school who were covered by members of the senior leadership team and the wellbeing team. If your child's class team are unable to attend work we may ask you to keep your child at home for a short period due to the health and safety concerns of not having enough staff in school. Reasons for staff not being available to attend work would be if there is a positive case in their household, their child or dependent are unwell, they themselves are unwell or their child has been sent home and they do not have suitable childcare arrangements. Some school staff are taking advice from their unions who advise their members to work from home at this time, however this is not the case currently at Abbey School.

A lot of the updates are sent to us very late, why is school not better informed?

As a school and a Trust we are reliant on the Government updates. Often these updates are heard on the evening televised briefings and the relevant document sent to schools overnight. Until we read the full guidance we are unable to offer the advice to you.





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How will the school communicate with me over the next few weeks?

We will continue to text families (please ensure we have the correct number) we will tweet information from our twitter page @abbeylearning found on the school website www.abbeyschool.co and also add messages to the family Facebook page - *Abbey Parents and Carers engaging together*. Please note this closed Facebook page is a shared communication page for parents and carers and the school. It is not constantly monitored by the school but has a group of established parents and carers who act as admin. Unfortunately due to safeguarding reasons we cannot let extended family members on the page unless they are the person who the child lives with. This is to keep everyone safe on there.

Will annual reviews still go ahead?

Yes annual reviews will continue to be online as before.

How do I contact my child's teacher?

The school 'yellow pages' is the best source of information to contact any member of staff. If your concern is about your child we would always advise speaking to their class teacher first.

Will staff be wearing masks and PPE?

We continue to support staff to wear face shields in classrooms and insist in line with Government guidance that face coverings are worn outside their classroom.

Does my child need a face covering?

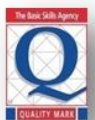
The Government guidance is that children over 11 years old should wear a face covering in school in busy areas and on transport. Please ensure your child has a face covering as part of their uniform expectation with their name on it. It is vital that these face coverings are washed after each school day or replaced if they are a paper disposable mask. Due to the increase in transmission we have all seen recently I would strongly advise you insist that your child wears a face covering on the school bus and report to the relevant Local Authority or the school when any member of transport staff are not adhering to the rules on wearing face coverings.

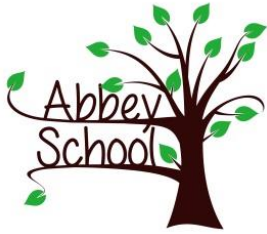
My child won't wear a face covering?

Some children are exempt from wearing a face covering however the vast majority of children are able to wear them. We insist on them being worn particularly on taxis and minibuses due to social distancing being difficult on the Local Authority transport. The use of face coverings will protect your child bringing home the virus from school or the transport.

When will my child get tested in school?

We have today received the testing equipment for staff and pupils. However the school testing site will not be ready until 11th January when staff have gained the appropriate training and permissions have been authorised. More information on testing will be sent to you this week.





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I consider myself a key worker can you assure me that you will offer my child a place should the Government change their guidance on schools opening?

The list of defined key worker roles can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> If the school does have to close due to the Government advice and subsequent National Lockdown follow we will look carefully at the key worker information you have provided us with and offer a place for the most essential roles given the number of places we have on offer. It may be that we require your child to stay at home if you yourself are not physically in a workplace or you are based at home as this is seen to be the safest option.

If you do have further questions please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Luci Windle

Executive Headteacher.

