

Abbey School

an academy within Nexus MAT

Little Common Lane, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 2RA

Tel: 01709 740074 Fax: 01709 553465

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www.abbeyschool.co www.nexusMAT.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



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23.2.2021

Spring 2 Term Update

Dear Families,

Following the Prime Minister's address to the nation on 22 February 2021, we are now preparing to re-open school to all pupils from Monday 8 March. From this date, the Government have reinstated the statutory requirement for all children of a school age to attend school daily.

During this lockdown period, we have had a consistent number of pupils in school, and we have been undertaking regular testing of staff and some pupils to identify any asymptomatic cases. (cases where there may not be any obvious symptoms)

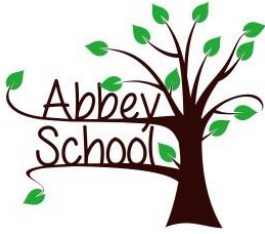
We know that some families will be very anxious about their child returning to school, and we want to assure you that we have and will continue to do all we can to make the school site as safe as possible. Enhanced cleaning; testing of staff; class/key stage bubbles; reduced visitors; ventilation; and the use of face masks and enhanced personal protective equipment are all measures we will continue to use to contain any COVID-19 cases that are brought into school and to reduce transmission.

We are expecting secondary aged pupils (11 year to 19 years) to wear a mask or face covering during lessons so as to adhere to the Government guidance. Could we therefore ask you to provide a face mask / covering for use in school. Face masks should be kept dry and clean so please ensure you provide enough for your child to change in school if needed. If your child is medically exempt or incapable of wearing a face mask / covering please do let us know likewise if you would prefer your child to wear one but are struggling to support them to do this. We will be continuing to test secondary aged pupils using the lateral flow tests. Carrying out tests is encouraged as it will help us all to reduce the risk of transmission – keeping us safe and keeping schools open – but it is not compulsory and will not be a condition of returning to school for any student.

Our staff have continually gone above and beyond in this pandemic to ensure our pupils have consistency and routine, and we couldn't be prouder of their courage and resolve. However, we also know that adults are far more likely to contract COVID-19 and it may be that, during this school year, we need to agree short term measures with families for home based learning if we have staff absence rates that leave the school site unsafe. Please be assured that we will only ever seek agreement for home learning if we have no viable alternative: this is a decision we will never take lightly. The nature of COVID-19 means we don't always have a lot of notice to plan, so your continued trust and support is something we will never take for granted.

The Government's 'road map' out of lockdown is long, but hopefully the end is in sight. We are all hoping that the summer term can bring a return to the life we knew before 2020, and we look forward to coming together as a school community when it's safe to do so, to celebrate all we've achieved together through these challenging times.





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No doubt we will be sending you more information before the 8th March including details of a online session with Senior Leaders so that any questions that you have can be answered.

Please do continue to take care and stay safe.

Mrs L Windle

Executive Headteacher.

