



Abbey School

an Academy within Nexus MAT

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03.03.21

Update for Families - Return to School

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. We are sincerely looking forward to seeing all your children return to school on Monday 8th March. We understand that many children who have been away from school since January will find it worrying to return and will be asking many questions. As always, staff teams are ready to answer any of your questions in the hope that it will ease any anxieties that you or your child may be having.

Upon our return we will continue to use the class bubble approach and limiting the amount of movement around school as much as possible. Children who are 11 years and above will be required, wherever possible, to wear a face covering in lessons to prevent any asymptomatic virus strains from spreading. If your child faces difficulties wearing a face covering such as a fabric mask, we would suggest you try a plastic face shield. Although the shields are not as protective as a fabric or clinical face covering it will give some protection. If you are struggling to find a face shield due to not being able to leave the house, we do have some in school that we can give to your child should you wish to wear them. Please do let your child's class team know if your child requires one.

We are expecting children to come in uniform however we understand that children may have grown over this last Half Term and would prefer them to come back to school comfortable rather than stay at home due to not having uniform. We do have some uniform in school to loan if this helps your situation but please try not to worry about uniform. We will further enforce our usual uniform rules after Easter.

Children who are aged 11 and above will be tested using a quick test method twice weekly. A link to gain your permission has been sent via text or email. We intend to continue testing children in school rather than send test kits at home. We understand how difficult it has been to have your children at home and do not wish to put further strains on household by insisting that parents / carers test their child at home. Test kits are available for family members via the Government link <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> If you are struggling to access this please do contact school. This offer via the Government is only available to secondary aged children and their support bubbles.

As always if your child or anyone in the family home or support bubble is displaying any of the following symptoms; persistent cough, high temperature, loss or change of sense of taste or smell, diarrhoea, fatigue, rash, red/ purple sores or blisters on feet, raised red itchy welts on skin or sudden swelling of face and lips, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, please keep your child at home and ensure you get a clinical PCR test for them. In order to keep school open and everyone safe it is vitally important that you **do not send your child with these symptoms.** Where a child or staff member tests positive we will continue to take quick action in closing a class bubble and subsequent bus routes down. The affected children and staff will need to therefore isolate for a further 10 days as has happened previously.

Please do continue to take care and stay safe.

Mrs L Windle
Executive Headteacher.

