



# Abbey School

an Academy within Nexus MAT

Little Common Lane, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 2RA

Tel: 01709 740074 Fax: 01709 553465

[abbeyschool@nexusmat.org](mailto:abbeyschool@nexusmat.org)

[www.abbeyschool.co](http://www.abbeyschool.co) [www.nexusMAT.org](http://www.nexusMAT.org)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



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

09.12.21

## Covid Plan B Announcement Update

Dear Families,

Yesterday evening, the Prime Minister updated us on the changes to be enforced for the Christmas period. This includes an increased use of masks in public spaces, a requirement of evidence of a negative lateral flow test to attend events and an encouragement to work from home. In terms of education, very little has changed within the announcement.

As you will know, we encourage families to allow us to test their child twice weekly in school as we realise the pressure this puts on families in terms of their child's behaviour, anxiety at home or busy family life. We will continue to do this testing method in school. We also encourage students to wear masks on their transport as this is a typically challenging area where social distancing is impossible. As we hit the coldest weather of the year, we find too often that minibus windows aren't open so provide no ventilation and children are not wearing a mask. Please support our school community by encouraging the transport staff to open windows and wear masks when they arrive to pick up your child. Staff are wearing masks outside of their classrooms, again to prevent any spread of the virus that may occur. We have also increased cleaning procedures given the information that the new identified variant spreads rapidly. There was also a plea to get vaccinated, including the booster. I know some of our school community were very anxious about having a vaccine but please rest assured it is never too late to be vaccinated. If you do have questions in relation to vaccinations please do contact me.

As Mr. Askham informed you recently, the Christmas shows are offered online again this year so will be released very soon via the #teamabbey YouTube channel. We have moved back to this to keep classes separated as much as possible when indoors to prevent any further spread that may occur, this means classes are eating their dinner in classrooms rather than all together in the hall. Likewise, we are offering virtual assemblies rather than gathering all together in the hall. We will be reviewing these approaches upon our return in January 2022.

I know the announcement yesterday has left us all with not only feelings of being worried, even frightened about the new restrictions and variant, but for some of us a sense of anger that we are still not fully living what we remember to be a 'normal' lifestyle. However, as a school community we have shown real strength and kindness in supporting each other and I have no doubt that whatever path we go on as we approach the New Year, we will walk it together as a team to get the best outcomes for your children.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to personally wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022 when it arrives. I hope we will continue to move into 2022 as a team together showing the values that we know are so dear to our hearts... Kindness.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs L Windle  
Executive Headteacher

