



Abbey School

an academy within Nexus MAT

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www.abbey.school.co www.nexusmat.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



INSPIRE...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE

2.1.22

January 2022 return to school updates.

Dear Families,

Firstly can I wish you a very Happy New Year, I hope we all manage to stay healthy and happy throughout this year. I do hope you managed to enjoy Christmas with your children.

Secondly, I am sure you will have seen the latest Government Guidance released today for schools. The new Covid variant is spreading extremely quick throughout the community and although it seems that positive cases have lesser symptoms, it is much more than a seasonal cold so please ensure you are playing your part in reducing the transmission of this virus. Everyone of us will experience Covid symptoms in different ways some much more than others that require hospitalisation. As a school we have worked extremely hard over the past 22 months to ensure we can provide your child with the best education possible given the challenging circumstances, this has undoubtedly taken a great deal of effort from staff who have risked their own health at times. Please let us continue caring for each other as we have done in the past by ensuring you do not send your child to school if they have symptoms such as a cold, cough, sore throat without getting a PCR test. A great deal of information was released at once so please find below a summary of how it affects us as a school community on all 3 sites.

- 1) Upon our return on Tuesday 4th January we will test every student who has had permission in the past. This will include any student who had a Covid positive test result in the past 90 days.
- 2) Face masks should be worn by students who are 11 years old and upwards in classrooms as will all staff. Please provide your child with a face covering. All students should be encouraged to wear face coverings on the bus or taxi to and from school. Please encourage staff on the school transport to adopt this rule and open windows for ventilation.
- 3) If your child is positive for Covid through a PCR they can be tested at home on day 6 and day 7 using a lateral flow test, if both these tests taken over 24 hours between them are negative, your child can return to school and be tested by school on day 8. Results must be shared with test track and trace and the school also

abbey.covidresults@nexusmat.org





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- 4) If you are not allowing your child to be tested they will need to complete the full 10 days isolation at home.
- 5) Where students display signs of the new variant, coughs, colds, sore throats, high temperatures we will be asking families to take them for a PCR test to ensure the safety of all the school community. If we feel your child's symptoms are within the new variant descriptions we will be expecting them to isolate as per Government rules. Isolating mean's they are not allowed to leave the family home without good reason e.g. to get a test, seek help for urgent medical assistance or to avoid the risk of harm. It is your responsibility as parents/ carers to ensure that your child isolates properly.
- 6) Families will be informed if we have reason to believe that Covid has spread in a class or group of students throughout school. However, information on individual cases where a spread is not associated with will not be shared.
- 7) Staffing due to Covid illness is critical- it may mean we have to combine classes, reduce curriculum offer or in the case scenario go back to online teaching. The request to find out which of our families are key workers will be sent out again in the coming weeks. Where school closure affects families will request key worker places explaining and evidencing why a place is needed.
- 8) Examinations will continue to go ahead at this point.
- 9) Please ensure your emergency contacts are updated to by replying to the text message you will receive this week. It is under safeguarding rules that we should always have emergency contact details should your child need immediate medical assistance.
- 10) If your child has had Covid over Christmas please ensure you do let your class team know so that they can adapt learning accordingly. Many children have suffered with fatigue after having Covid which can impact on their behaviour and learning.

I realise these are not the best circumstances in which to start a new year however, we have to work together as a team to keep our school community as safe as possible. If you have any further questions or would like help in accessing test kits or vaccines please do telephone school so that we are able to support you.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs L Windle
Executive Headteacher

