

ABBAY ACADEMIES TRUST
Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

2nd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a splendid half term despite the Government's announcement on Saturday. Senior Leaders were in discussion during the holiday and over the weekend. We met this morning and we have made some decisions about this term as well as updating our 'live' COVID-19 risk assessment. Please remember this is available for you to view should you wish.

It is extremely important to share information in a prompt manner. It is also important to keep all our parents/carers, staff and children fully updated in order to reassure you all at the start of Term 2. Although there is to be a further National lockdown from Thursday, which will last until 2nd December 2020, schools are to remain open for all pupils. Please contact school for any advice regarding Pupil Premium allowances and remember that we are always here to support all of our families.

I am sure, as so many across the country have apparently been decorating their houses and doing some early Christmas shopping during half term, it will not surprise you that Christmas was on our list to discuss. Sadly, we will not be able to attend Church for our usual Christmas services. With the onset of normal winter colds and the odd dash of norovirus on top of COVID-19, we do not want to take the children out of our safe environment. We will be producing a Christmas Service alternative which will be viewed by the children in school and shared with you online via the website. We also will be unable to hold our Reception Nativities in our schools and invite you as we usually would. I know our fabulous Reception teams will again make sure there is a virtual Nativity to share with you in their 'bubbles' online. Christmas is an incredibly important part of being a Church School and we are absolutely committed to ensuring our children celebrate and understand this important story even in such different times.

We will be having Christmas parties in class 'bubbles' but school will provide any party food rather than this being brought in from home. We have organised the pantomime to be virtual and we will still have Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day. More details to follow nearer the time. Christmas Fayres won't happen but each school's PTFA will be in touch with parents/carers about alternative fundraising ideas.

We wrote to parents/carers towards the end of Term 1 regarding online learning for any children who are absent due to COVID-19 self-isolating, which included class 'bubbles'. The plan for this will continue.

During lockdown we feel all wider Trust meetings should be moved to Microsoft Teams, in order to reduce staff travelling across the Trust to minimise risk of COVID-19 transmission. Senior Leaders will keep their movement between schools to a minimum.

We know that some of you are concerned about the wearing of PPE. We are awaiting further guidance on this. We are also aware that some schools are insisting that parents/carers wear masks when dropping off and collecting children. Our practice will remain the same unless the guidance changes. We are also awaiting updated guidance on singing. As soon as we get information we will share it with you and update our 'live' risk assessment appropriately. **Can we please remind you to adhere to social distancing at drop off and collection times.** We are very proud of our Reception children who settled into school life brilliantly last term. As we go into another National lockdown, please can we ask that you do not take your Reception child right to the classroom door to avoid congestion. The class teacher will be at the door to welcome the children in and you will still be able to wave.

Senior Leaders will continue to meet regularly and communicate with you. We know that you may find moving into a further National lockdown concerning, but we will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with Public Health England. Although these are worrying times, I am sure you agree that it is important to try to keep our children in school for both their education and their mental health and well-being. Please continue to monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19 and keep school fully up to date with all test results whether positive or negative.

We hope you enjoy the wonderful reports which will be going home tomorrow. Please do not hesitate to contact class teachers if you have any concerns or worries.

Take care, stay safe and be reassured that we will be continuing with our usual enthusiasm and 'Take Care' approach, flying high together in V-formation.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Moore'.

Mrs Sarah Moore
Executive Headteacher