

ABBAY ACADEMIES TRUST
Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and I want to thank you once again for your continued support with the children's online learning at home and for the many positive comments we continue to receive from you. I want to reassure you that the Senior Leadership Team regularly reflect on any concerns, worries and ideas you have and we continually review and monitor rigorously our remote learning provision. Most importantly, Senior Leaders, teachers and TAs are thrilled with the work the children are doing both in school and at home and are very appreciative of your kind words to us about the quality of our online learning and the feedback we give to the children.

We continue to be incredibly mindful of our children's mental health and well-being through these difficult and different coronavirus times. This term, if the children were in school, they would have been having a 'Speak Out Stay Safe' assembly from the NSPCC. Sadly, it is not possible to hold these at present and so we would like to take this opportunity to signpost parents and carers to the NSPCC website and their PANTS campaign materials. These can be reached through this link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/pants/pants-2018/pants-parents-guide-online.pdf>

The general NSPCC website also has lots of other information to support parents and carers. Please remind your children of the support that Childline can offer them if they are worried or anxious about anything and help them to learn the contact number 0800 1111. You can also continue to contact us at school if you think a telephone call with the class teacher, member of the Senior Leadership Team or one of our Mental Health and Wellbeing First Aiders would help your child at home.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that our E Safety team have prepared a fabulous Safer Internet Day Collective Worship and activities on Seesaw for Tuesday next week. WOW job by them and incredibly important for our children in these coronavirus times.

During the last two weeks our numbers of keyworker and vulnerable children have crept up. Please can I reassure you that although the government rules are less strict for this school closure, we continue to ask for evidence of keyworker status in a kind and supportive way. Next week, two of our year groups will have numbers slightly over 40 and therefore, as I promised, we will have more members of staff in school to ensure our bubbles don't go over 20.

We are hoping to reopen all three schools on March 8th for whatever 'bubbles' Mr Johnson may say can return to school at this time. Obviously this will depend very much on his announcement on February the 22nd. In the meantime The Senior Leadership Team, our fantastic office teams and Site Managers are ensuring all will be ready for our return to having three schools open again. What has been fabulous to see, are the lovely bonds that our keyworker and vulnerable children have made at Bourne Abbey from all three schools. I think that this shows not only how amazing and resilient our children are, but also how brilliantly we have ensured they all feel welcome and loved.

We have parent/carer consultations for after half term in hand. These will be ten minute telephone consultations and a letter will be sent to you early next week with further details, and how you can book an appointment with class teachers.

So, snow!!!! According to the forecast there is going to be end of the world amounts of the snow on Sunday and next week....so probably 2cm!!! Seriously though, as ever, if we have to close to keep everyone safe, we will try to get the decision made as early as possible before anyone sets out and to give parents and carers time to make arrangements. I know you appreciate this is a nightmare decision for Head teachers, but Senior Leaders have a cunning plan in place which begins on Sunday as the first flakes potentially fall. Having reflected on some very relevant parental feedback about not enabling the children to have a more traditional 'snow day' and in trying to balance opinions as many parents and carers will still want the Seesaw learning, what I suggest is that on a day where we are closed for snow, we will reduce the amount of this online learning. We do appreciate that some of you might like to spend time outside enjoying the awe and wonder of nature in a creative, take care way. I do though absolutely hope we will not have to close at all for snow again and it is not a decision I ever take lightly.

As ever the Covid phone is on out of hours should you need to call me if YOUR CHILD has a positive test result. Don't forget to call me again if I do not answer the first time.

Thank you again for all you are doing so brilliantly in such challenging and difficult times and for all the fabulous geese honking.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.J. Moore', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S J Moore
Executive Headteacher