

**ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore**

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021**

WOW! I can't believe we have only got 5 more opportunities before we break up for the summer holiday! What a year we have had with challenging and unprecedented Coronavirus times and what a week we had at Bourne Abbey last week with our Ofsted inspection. I am so very proud of our Abbey Academies Trust staff team, our trustees and governors, our parents and carers and of course our AWESOME children. We should receive the final report to share with you at the start of the autumn term.

We are so excited about the implementation of Step 4! At Step 4 the Government no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that bubbles will not need to be used in schools from the autumn term. As our schools will still be open on July 19<sup>th</sup>, when Step 4 begins, we are going to continue our same measures until we break up on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

From September 2021, as well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, Collective Worship/Assemblies can resume and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch and breaktimes. There have been positives however with our current lunch and break time plans and so some of these arrangements will be kept in September. You will see from the updated FAQs, that we are no longer restricting to one adult per child or asking you to maintain social distance at drop off and collection. We are also relaxing staff and parent/carers wearing face coverings. We will continue our start and end of the day arrangements in terms of times and gates but will review this at the end of Term 1. There are some slight changes which are in the school specific FAQs. Please can I reinforce that this is not due to COVID-19 but because these arrangements have supported the children at the start and the end of the day.

For our Reception parents/carers and children who haven't had our usual transition into school, you will be able to come to your child's classroom door. Our fabulous Reception staff will make sure they are available if you have any concerns or worries and will be in touch with you if they have any about how your child has settled too.

In the FAQs you will see that we are following government guidance as we implement Step 4 and we will maintain our rigorous hygiene control measures. None of this will change in September.

If a child has a positive test for COVID-19, from September 2021 **THEY** need to self-isolate however their bubble/class **does not**. This should mean that we won't have to close classes/bubbles. The government have though directed that our 'live' COVID-19 risk assessment covers the possibility that, "in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups".

In September, if a child has to self-isolate because they have COVID-19 symptoms or have had a positive test, teachers will continue provide them with remote online learning, as we have been this year, after the first day of absence if the child is well enough.

Members of staff are not expected to lateral flow test and report their results during the summer holidays, unless they are attending school. The government ask that school staff resume testing twice weekly when we return to school until the end of September, when they will be reviewing this.

The emergency COVID-19 mobile phone will be turned off on July 19<sup>th</sup> because any absence due to COVID-19 will not affect 'bubbles' and classes. If your child has symptoms or a positive test which may affect their return to school on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021, please inform school in the usual way. This information can be found in the FAQs.

We have tried hard to cover everything in the FAQs but would welcome your feedback. Of course we will continue to be reflective and flexible in September and also the Senior Leadership Team will be alert to any developments and/or directives from the government over the summer holidays. I will write to you during the summer break if there are any changes.

Very importantly, we will continue to be incredibly mindful of meeting staff, pupil and family wellbeing when we return in September 2021. As a team of geese we have all been flying high together; adapting and supporting each other during these coronavirus times. Our staff and children have continued to amaze us with their resilience, adaptability, positivity and creativity. Our curriculum inspires and engages us all! We finish our school year thinking about the Christian Value of 'Thankfulness'. There isn't a better value to finish the school year with. We are all thankful that life is slowly returning to 'normal'. We are thankful for wonderful governors/trustees, staff team, families and most of all such special children – who are what makes the exciting and more challenging times all worth it.

We still have some exciting events to look forward to as we move further towards the end of the school year, including our fabulous Year 6 productions (which will be shared virtually today) and our eagerly anticipated and much deserved Year 6 Leavers' celebrations.

Thank you for continuing to sparkle after another challenging and unprecedented Coronavirus year and for your continued kindness and support. May I take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful summer holiday and here's to our new and undoubtedly exciting adventures in September.

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