

**ABBAY ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**Executive Headteacher: Mrs S L Moore**

12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**COVID-19 UPATE**

Following considerable media coverage about the Covid-19 virus, I thought it was appropriate to update you on the current and future actions of Bourne Abbey and Bourne Elsea Park CE Primary Academies and Colsterworth CE Primary School to reassure you, without any over-reaction, that we will do our utmost to keep everyone in our care safe. We can reassure you that we are following daily guidance from the NHS and Department for Education (DfE).

The Senior Leadership Team are meeting regularly to discuss and mitigate risk where possible. The message from Public Health England indicates that there is no need to panic, despite rising numbers of cases, which were anticipated. The risk to healthy children and adults remains low and we will update our parents/carers; children and staff as messages change.

This is a new virus with no vaccination yet available and the best advice for an education setting is to maximise hygiene and minimise the spread of the virus through effective handwashing and sanitisation. We would like to thank the children for their commitment to the process of good hygiene as the ongoing news regarding the Covid-19 virus has emerged.

In addition we have asked our cleaners to ensure that they carry out deep cleaning of all regularly used surfaces daily.

As you would expect there are many existing school visits and activities planned to drive the cultural education of the children and we will individually risk assess each of these events and make appropriate decisions to ensure the ongoing safety of our children and staff. All planned residential visits will be under review.

You will appreciate that there is a balance to strike in order to minimise disruption whilst reducing the risk of exposure and acting responsibly. Therefore, the Senior Leadership Team are currently planning for the potential of a temporary closure by the Government; as you can imagine this scenario has many implications for all of our children. In the event of closure/partial closure we will continue to communicate with parents and carers in 3 ways:

- By posting important messages on our school website
- By parentmail
- By posting important messages on the school social media platform where available

I would ask that you ensure all contact details and email addresses are up to date and if in doubt please provide these details on a slip of paper to the school office, marked clearly with your name and we will update our system.

We are in the process of organising work which can be sent home, especially for our Year 6 children in preparation for their SATs tests.

If staff absence reaches unprecedented levels, we may have to consolidate classes or consider partial closure of the school. You are aware that this will be our absolute last option and the Senior Leadership Team will have considered all other options before making this decision.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding whilst dealing with a rapidly changing situation.

Yours sincerely

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

Mrs Sarah Moore  
Executive Headteacher