

ABBAY ACADEMIES TRUST
Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

11th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you managed to have a nice bank holiday weekend despite these continued challenging times. Mrs Buttress, Mrs Jordan, Mr Bellamy, Mrs Orme, Mrs Bradley and I had a lovely Bank Holiday last Friday in school with the Keyworkers' children who were a delight. Thank you to Mrs Bates and Mrs Chapman who also lent a hand in school.

So, I am sure like me, you are very confused and perplexed with Mr Johnson's address yesterday evening. Please be assured that I will make sure we have a plan in place, indeed we had already started to consider a potential partial opening. At the moment there are more questions than answers, but hopefully the Ministerial Statement and the 50 page guidance document may throw further light on the situation later today. To be honest I think the first day of KS2 SATs, which should have been this morning, might have been less stressful and that is saying something!!

We were not sure what to expect this morning after the announcement yesterday that more people could return to work. However, we have 15 Keyworkers' and vulnerable children in school and they are those who have been coming regularly. Perhaps there may be more children at school as this week goes on. Strict instructions from the Local Authority via an email sent last night is that for now, the Keyworker list remains the same. This morning we held a Senior Leadership Team meeting to discuss our questions and put a further risk assessment in place. John Kirkman and Duncan Pickering our two Co-Chairs of Trustees are also involved in all our decision making. We continue to be in close contact with other local schools.

What I do know is that we may need to open all three schools on June 1st and if we do, I need to ensure it is as safe as possible for our children and staff. If it is that Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children return in June, we will need to carefully consider space and staffing. We may also have more Keyworkers' children in school, if more people are going back to work. Hopefully there will be guidance on testing, PPE equipment for staff and further clarity on keeping socially distant which will be especially challenging with younger children. We also hope to have confirmation about whether children returning to school in certain year groups will be optional or compulsory for you as parent/carers. Once we know this, we will be sending a letter home regarding your choice.

I know you will have many questions but please be assured that I will do absolutely everything to protect our Abbey Academies Trust family during this difficult time. I will continue to communicate with you all regularly and we will be flexible and proactive with advice and direction from the Government and Public Health England. Work will also continue to be provided remotely for home learning.

I know you will continue to support me as this is all so unprecedented and I will work day and night to do the best for our children, our staff and our families. "We are in the stickiest situation since Sticky the stick insect got stuck on a sticky bun". As Blackadder would say!!

Take care and stay safe as ever.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sarah Moore
Executive Headteacher