

ABBAY ACADEMIES TRUST
Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the announcement made yesterday evening by Mr Johnson, we are delighted that we will be opening all our three schools from Monday March 8th, following this latest school closure.

The Department for Education have provided schools with operational guidance for reopening. They have made it clear that all children are expected to return to school on Monday March 8th. They have stated that this is mandatory. We do understand that some of you may be anxious about your child/ren returning to school and members of Senior Leadership Team are happy to discuss your concerns and reassure you.

The Senior Leadership Team have spent time deliberating over our plans for full opening on Monday 8th March. We can't wait!!!!!! We are going to organise the school day as we did between September 2nd and December 17th 2020 as these arrangements worked incredibly well. Keeping everyone safe remains our main priority and we are therefore meticulously planning for opening all three of our schools with the utmost care. Although many of our measures will be similar across our Trust, we have ensured that we have specific, individual school arrangements, as our schools are all very different. We will be sending our updated FAQs to you tomorrow.

As you know we had made some changes to our school day arrangements in September due to coronavirus. We do appreciate that it may take a few days to get used to these arrangements from Monday 8th March and we would like to thank you for your support during this time. As ever, school staff will be on hand to help to direct you and your child/ren at the start and end of each school day.

Please can I reassure that our COVID-19 risk assessment will remain 'live' throughout the remainder of this academic year. We will continue to act swiftly to any government and Public Health directives. If any of our plans need to change, I will be in contact via ParentMail, the school website and Facebook to keep you fully informed. We will continue with all our safety measures following government guidance to effectively reduce risk and create an inherently safer environment. The FAQs set out clearly how we will do this. Additionally, we will also minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school. Staff will be continuing with twice weekly Lateral Flow Device testing. The COVID-19 emergency mobile phone will still be in operation for you to report if your child has a positive test result out of school hours. This telephone number is in the FAQs.

The Department for Education have advised that "In primary schools, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). Children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering." Staff will continue to wear face coverings at the start and end of the school day and we expect that parents/carers will do the same if able.

A concern we have had, and are sure you have had, is regarding social distancing. As in September 2020, children will be in their class 'bubbles' throughout the day and Reception will remain in their year group 'bubble'. There will be frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices, regular cleaning of settings and minimising contact and mixing.

We will be offering our usual ambitious, creative and broad curriculum in all subjects. We will of course plan on the basis of the educational needs of our children and address any gaps in their knowledge and skills. We will maintain our high expectations and aspirational targets for all our children. Intervention, provision and 'Catch-Up' will be in place for the core areas of the curriculum. We were thrilled with how children caught up last term and our plan is to hit the ground running when they return.

Online learning will be provided for any child/ren who have to self-isolate due to COVID-19. This will be uploaded onto Seesaw from the second day of absence. This will also be the case if class bubbles have to self-isolate.

We absolutely understand that many of our children may experience a variety of emotions in response to coronavirus and returning to school. Our Mental Health and Wellbeing First Aiders will be available to work with the children. All our staff will provide plenty of pastoral support to the children, including rebuilding friendships and addressing and responding to issues relating to COVID-19.

We are delighted that Kids' Club will be reopening at both Bourne Abbey and Bourne Elsea Park from Monday 8th March. A separate letter regarding this will be sent home later this week. We will also be contacting you when we have further information regarding transport from the Local Authority. Our cold lunch menu will continue for Term 4. Lunches can be ordered in the usual way. The deadline for ordering lunches for w/c 8th March is midnight, Sunday 28th February.

We know that the children will be excited to be back in school. Parents, carers, staff and children have definitely gone above and beyond, as ever, during this latest school closure. We are really looking forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday March 8th and I will be writing a letter to the children later this week. I know we will continue to flourish and blossom in the future and thank you for all your support, kindness and understanding once again this year.

I have included as much information as possible in this letter but I know that the FAQs you will receive tomorrow will give you much more detailed information. In the meantime, if you

Yours sincerely



Mrs S J Moore
Executive Headteacher