

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

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

**SCHOOL CLOSURE**

You will now be aware, following the announcement made by Mr Johnson yesterday, that all schools have been instructed to close from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at the end of the day for all children except those of key workers and those classed as vulnerable.

We have been anticipating such an announcement and therefore we have been able to send home a pack of work for each child in every year group, which will support you with home learning while the children are not at school until the Easter holiday. We have included two blank exercise books for your child/ren to be able to complete work. If your child/ren are currently not at school, please can you arrange for the packs to be collected tomorrow. If this is not possible, we will either post the packs to you or deliver them by hand.

We have also made preparations and will be able to send you weekly work remotely after the Easter holidays and for the duration of school closure.

You are also now aware, following a letter earlier today, that we have set up a school Facebook page for all three schools in Abbey Academies Trust, which we will be able to use to share key messages and information, communicate with families and share learning. Through Facebook and/or the school's websites, you will be able to access the remote learning that staff upload. This will be available every Monday after the Easter holiday.

Abbey Academies Trust Senior Leadership Team have spent a great deal of time investigating the viability of keeping our schools open for those identified groups; however, I am sure you will agree that the health and safety of our pupils and staff is paramount. In light of our discussions, we have decided that we are able to provide care for children of key workers, where **both** parent/carers are key workers, between the usual school hours of 8.55am and 3.15pm. We will not be able to provide lunch for these children so they will need to bring a packed lunch and a drink. We will do this for as long as we have staff in place, including SLT, Designated Safeguarding Leaders, Site Managers and the cleaning teams. As our Head of School at Bourne Elsea Park is currently absent and we will not have our Site Manger from Monday either, those children of key workers at Bourne Elsea Park will be able to go to Bourne Abbey CE Primary Academy. Available members of staff from both our schools in Bourne will be at Bourne Abbey to support the children.

Tomorrow we will send out a letter to confirm access arrangements to ensure all our children stay safe. We will also clarify the type of activities that the children may undertake following the advice from the Secretary of State who stated yesterday "This is an entirely different role for schools and school staff. It is primarily about care, not education."

We do not feel we have sufficient or qualified staffing to safeguard our Abbey Ark pupils or indeed our Kids' Clubs (including holiday clubs) and have therefore made the difficult decision to shut these entirely until the government advises schools are to reopen. Kids' Club and Abbey Ark will run as normal tomorrow until 6pm.

All appropriate refunds will be made as soon as possible, including any visits that do not go ahead.

Please can I once again reassure you that we will always keep communication channels open to support families over safeguarding and SEND issues while our schools are closed. We have liaised with our school meals provider, IDEAL Foods, and next week for pupils who currently receive Free School Meals (FSM), a packed lunch will be provided for families to collect each morning from school, at a time to be confirmed. For our Bourne Elsea Park families, these can be collected from Bourne Abbey. On Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> March, IDEAL Foods will provide a food parcel which will last the week for those FSM children. This will continue after the Easter holiday should schools still be closed.

Remember we have links on our websites to support children and families with their well-being.

I will continue to update you with events as they unfold and as we get more advice and direction from Public Health England and the Government whilst we are closed.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Please may I take this opportunity to say you are all in my prayers at this difficult time. I will continue to divide my time and be available across the schools.

***“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can.”***

***John Wesley***

Yours Sincerely

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

Sarah Moore  
Executive Headteacher