

ABBAY ACADEMIES TRUST
Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

11th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing firstly to thank those parents and carers of our Year 2 keyworker and vulnerable children for your supportive response to us asking last week's bubble to self-isolate until Tuesday 19th January. You will appreciate that Mrs Bates, Mrs Buttress and I had to work quickly to organise this yesterday and get the information to you as soon as we possibly could.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you about our out of hours mobile phone number, so that in the event of your child receiving a positive test result you can contact this emergency number without delay. This is in order for us to consider the need to close a year group bubble and give us the maximum notice to make arrangements. If we are informed of a positive test result out of hours in good time, it may mean that we can inform a year group bubble before the start of the school day which would help you with arrangements at home. **This number is strictly only to be used to report a positive test result of a pupil, out of office hours.** Please do not send a text message to this emergency number as I need to take key information from you. You will appreciate that I do not want staff to be on call, so this number will be monitored by me. Emergency contact mobile number – **07591 528082.**

It is my responsibility to keep our children and staff safe during these continued challenging coronavirus times. Many of you will have seen the news this weekend and it is likely that the Government are considering putting in place even more measures to ensure people stay at home. Changes were made on Friday evening to the guidance for 'Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings'. The guidance clearly asks that where possible, 'parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.'

We have accepted all requests from parents and carers who are key workers. We have though noticed a huge increase in these numbers compared to the first school closure last March. In total, from all three schools, the largest number of children in our care at that time was 30. On average, since Wednesday 6th January, we have had in excess of 130 children. Obviously, the larger the number of pupils in school the larger the number of staff needed, who then cannot work from home. I can only ask that you carefully consider if your child/ren do need to be in school. The safety of both children and staff is paramount.

Although there is no statutory limit to the size of class 'bubbles' during this second lockdown, we have been able to keep year group bubbles to 15 or less. As numbers have increased, some of the bubbles have reached 20. We will monitor this situation when looking at our staff rotas.

It was a privilege once again to see the children arrive at school with their huge smiles and enthusiasm. Staff from all three schools are in this week to ensure the children feel safe and see familiar faces. Please can I remind you not to park outside the school on Abbey Road as this is incredibly dangerous. If you are a few minutes late we would rather you parked safely slightly away from school to keep everyone safe.

As ever we will keep the lines of communication open. If you have any worries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S J Moore
Executive Headteacher