



ABBEY PARK SCHOOL

6th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Reminder of COVID-19 guidance for Abbey Park School

The beginning of Term 2 has started well and I would like to thank you for your support for our way of working during the pandemic. As you may be aware, due to the introduction of a second lock down, the Department for Education has released further guidance to help support schools to remain open to all students. Therefore, it is timely to write to you with a reminder of key points of the guidance and our expectations of students not only in school, but during their journey to and from school.

Reporting your child's absence related to COVID-19

Attached to this letter is guidance for parents, to inform you what action to take if your child develops COVID-19 symptoms or has been a close contact of someone with the virus. It is very important that you keep the school informed of this and in particular any test results.

Extremely clinically vulnerable students

The guidance explains how the virus is a low risk to the majority of children and that most children who were originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. However, parents should speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. If they remain in this category they are advised not to attend school whilst the national restrictions are in place. If a child is not clinically extremely vulnerable, but lives with someone who is, they should still attend education. If you happen to have any concerns regarding these matters, please do contact the school.

Wearing of face masks

The recent DFE guidance made the wearing of face masks compulsory in corridors and crowded areas of the school where distancing cannot be maintained. At Abbey Park we had already introduced this, so students are familiar with this expectation. However, we are giving out hundreds of masks each week to those students who forget to bring their own mask. We would appreciate it if you could ensure you provide your child with a face mask each day.

Ventilation in classrooms

One of the measures we have taken to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, is to ensure corridors and classrooms are well ventilated, through the opening of doors and windows. As the outside temperature drops through the winter months this may mean classrooms are cooler than



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they would be usually. We are now shutting outside doors during lesson time to help maintain rooms at a reasonable temperature. Our recommendation is that if students are finding classrooms cold that they wear layers under their uniform in order to keep warm.

The journey to and from school

Although students are still able to attend school they must **follow the rules of the lockdown on their journey to and from school**, to mitigate against transmission of the virus. Students should only really travel to school with one other person, enter school at the time specified for their bubbles and go straight to their tutor base in the wing allocated to their bubble. Students must not congregate in groups outside of the school at the beginning or end of day. At the end of the school day, we expect students to go straight home, not play on the park and we advise they do not visit the Redhouse Tesco. Parents should ensure that students do not car-share and wear a face mask on public transport. As I requested in my previous newsletter, please can parents use the school car park to drop off. **Dropping students off at the roundabout by the student gate and parking on double yellow lines is extremely dangerous for all making their way to and from school.**

Session 6 clubs

We have been offering sports clubs to Year 7, but unfortunately we have had to postpone these according to the new guidance. We are still able to offer homework club, revision sessions and detentions will still run.

Thank you again for your support and we very much appreciate your understanding in these matters. Children's learning this year has already been disrupted and I am sure you would agree how important it is that children are able to attend school consistently. Through working together and following the guidance we will mitigate against the risks of COVID-19 and enable schools to remain open for all.

Yours sincerely

Mr Young

Operational Principal
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