



Abbotskerswell Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

10th July 2020

RE: Opening for all children at Abbotskerswell Primary School from September 2020

As you are aware, the government have asked schools to open for all children from September. This news brings great joy to us all at Abbotskerswell and we are looking forward to having ALL the children back. Last Tuesday marked 100 days of lockdown. As you know, the school didn't lock down at that time, the school remained open to the children of critical workers and those children identified as vulnerable, staffed by our amazing school team. 100 days.....a long time. I am really grateful that we are now at a stage where it is deemed safe to plan for everyone's return.

We have had exactly half of our school in on most days for the past few weeks. Feedback from staff and parents in school has been very positive and we feel that with a few small tweaks we will be able to successfully welcome back everyone safely.

For those children and parents who were not on the invited year groups lists prior to September then school may look slightly different than when you were last in, however we have really seen the benefits for those children who have been back and their feedback has been very positive.

In putting the plans together for September, we have decided that we are not going to be able to fully implement all aspects of school life straight away as they were prior to lockdown. We have put together short term, mid-term and longer term plans. The aim is to be back on track by the end of the academic year 2021.

I do appreciate that some of the decisions we are making will not please everyone, however we are really trying to do our best for the children, the staff and you as parents to make this as successful as we can.

Our curriculum offer remains broad and ambitious, the children will be taught a wide range of subjects, and we will revisit the most important content that has been missed. Early in the autumn term, teachers will be assessing the needs of the children to allow us to plan effectively so that the curriculum offer matches the needs of each child.

In school days, we are only 6 days away from the new academic year. Time has not been on our side in putting this together and as a school there are still many considerations and plans we need to put in place to allow this to work. However, I wanted to share this with you as early as I could to give you an indication of what school will be like in September.

In this update, we have tried to give you some details regarding the day to day running of the school and some clarity about the arrangements. We aim to outline what we will be doing in September to make school as safe an environment as possible based on guidance, as well as an insight into what school will look like for those children returning for the first time since March as it will be very different to what they were used to.

I appreciate that this is a very long document but I felt it important to try to give as much information as possible in one place for easy reference.



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Should I send my child back to school in September?

- It is vital that children and young people return to school - for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply.
- A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). If your child is unable to attend school for this reason, you should talk to the school about what support is in place in terms of remote education.

Can we go on holiday over the Summer holidays?

- Many families will want to take a holiday over the summer period, which may involve travelling abroad. As ever, parents should plan their holidays within school holidays and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time.

Will the school be offering a Summer club?

- We will be working with Primary Sports who will be running a Summer club at Abbotskerswell.
- This will be limited to a maximum of 20 children who attend Abbotskerswell School.
- We will not be able to take any children who attend different settings.
- The cost of the sessions will be £15 per day (£10 per day if you are entitled to pupil premium funding).
- Booking arrangements and further details can be found at <https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/holiday-camp>

How will classes be organised?

- Children will be in 'bubbles' within their classes. We have planned that there will be at least two adults per class.
- There will be consistent adults with classes.
- Classes will not interact with other classes and will be kept apart for the whole school day, including break times and lunch times.
- Each class will have their own toilet and washing facilities.

What will my child need to bring to school?

- If needed then children can bring a small bag to put their belongings in. It is quite important that these are small bags, as most of the children will be keeping these underneath their tables.
- Children will only need to bring a packed lunch box (if needed), a water bottle (essential as there will be no water fountain) sun protection (hat/cream), a coat.
- Your child's teacher will communicate further in September on the details for individual classes.
- Due to restrictions on sharing resources, children will not be allowed to bring other items in from home (e.g. toys, show and tell) or take items from school home (e.g. reading books, work they have completed).

Will I be able to come into school?

- At least for the first term, parents will not be able to come into the school building unless for a pre-arranged meeting which has been authorised by myself.
- Main forms of communication will continue to be via telephone, parentpay, email and tapestry (for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children).
- Class teachers will inform you on the best way of communicating with them in September.

Will school's opening hours remain the same?

- There will be a staggered start and end to the school day to minimise the possibility of parents congregating at the school gate and reducing the number of parents on site.

	Drop off	Collection
Kingfisher	8.45am – 8.50am	3.10pm
Robin	8.50am – 8.55am	3.20pm
Swift	8.55am – 9am	3.15pm
Puffins	9.00am – 9.05am	3.05pm *

*Different arrangements in place for the first week back for children in Puffin class.

- It is essential that you drop off and collect your child during the allocated time slot in order to prevent the groups from mixing.
- If you have children in more than one class, then you can bring your children at the time of the first drop off.
- If you have children in more than one class, then you can collect your children at the time of the first collection time.
- We do ask that only 1 parent comes to school with your child.
- There will be a one-way system in place. Please bring your child through the entrance in the car park. We then ask you to walk up the path with your child. They will then walk up to school via the ramp and be met by their teacher. We ask you to leave via the other school gate at the side.
- There will be hand sanitizer at the gate, and we ask all children to put this on as they come into school.
- The lunch break will be slightly shorter so that there will be no learning time lost.

Will the school be offering wrap around care?

- The government guidelines acknowledge that schools need time to build up to resuming the breakfast and after-school provision. As a small school, this is something that is particularly challenging for us. We need to ensure that we have the capacity to open fully for all children safely.
- From Monday 7th September, we will be able to offer after school provision on set days for classes.



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Day	Class group who can access after school provision	3:15 – 4:15	4:15 – 5:15
Monday	Robin	Gymnastics / dance	Activity club / Multi-skills
Tuesday	Swift	Gymnastics / dance	Activity club / Multi-skills
Wednesday	Robin	Football	Activity club / Multi-skills
Thursday	Swift	Football	Activity club / Multi-skills
Friday	Kingfisher	Football	Activity club / Multi-skills

- If you have children in more than one group, then please discuss your individual needs with the school office.
- The cost of the sessions will continue to be £3.50 for 1 hour and £7.00 for 2 hours (£1.75 and £3.50 for those families entitled to Pupil Premium funding).
- The places are limited to a maximum group size of 15.
- Mr Vile will continue to lead the after school provision.
- You will be able to make bookings for the after school provision from Monday 13th July.
- We are not going to be able to safely open breakfast club initially. We are aiming to have this running a few weeks into the new term.
- Once we are back, we can see how the arrangements we have put in place are working for the whole school. Once we have reviewed this, we are hopeful that we will be able to reintroduce our breakfast club, in some capacity, from the end of September.
- All bookings must be made prior to the day of the request. We will not be able to accept requests for after school club care on the day itself.

What will learning look like in school?

- Each child will have their own sets of stationery that they will require e.g. pens and pencils. Any resources that are used will be cleaned on a daily basis and not shared between classes.
- We will endeavour to have children outside where possible.
- We are very aware of the possible impact on children's mental health and wellbeing as a result of school feeling very different. We will ensure regular sessions focussing on personal, social and emotional education to support re-adjustment to life in the classroom and schools. This focus on well-being is now our number one school improvement priority. We will send out more information about this in September.
- We have increased some of our staff hours in order to plan 'catch up' and targeted programmes.

Will Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be used in school?

- Children will not be expected to wear any PPE when in school. Advice from the government is that PPE can be detrimental to safety for young children and so we ask that children are not sent in to school wearing PPE.
- Staff members have also been advised in the guidance that they should not wear PPE.
- PPE will be worn by staff members should a child display symptoms of COVID-19 as they await collection by parents and if they are required to give first-aid to a child.

What will break and lunchtimes look like?

- At break times and lunchtimes, children will have a set of equipment that they will be able to use purely for their class.
- Children will need to wash their hands before going out to break and after break times.
- We anticipate that these times will be challenging for children to socially distance without additional support so will suggest activities and games where there is no contact where possible.
- Children will eat their dinners outside or in their allocated classrooms. There will be set adults working with each group at lunchtimes.
- The children from each class will not be able to mix with children in other classes.



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What are the arrangements for free school meals?

- All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 attending school will be entitled to a free school meal as part of the government's funding for the Universal Free School Meals offer.
- Children in year 3,4,5 or 6 attending school who are in receipt of free school meals will also be entitled to a free lunch.
- Free school meal vouchers will no longer be offered.
- Initially for the first half term, we will be running the lunches in the same way that we have for the summer term. We will be offering a packed lunch service only.
- If you would like the school to provide a packed lunch, these can be booked on parentpay.
- Picnic items will rotate daily for variation. Children will have choices to choose from (ham/cheese/tuna) and where possible we will cater for their individual needs and requests.

How do I order a school packed lunch?

- We are going to ask that parents request the packed lunch via Parentpay so that we can plan the food needed in advance.
- If your child is not entitled to universal free school meals, you can still request a school packed lunch. The cost of these will be £2.45.
- Alternatively, you are welcome to provide your child with your own packed lunch and drink.
- We will be reviewing the arrangements for lunches after the first half term in October. This allows us to begin the academic year with a system that we have in place and we know has been working.

How else will we reduce the risk of any possible transmission?

- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring anyone with symptoms do not attend school.
- Clean hands thoroughly, more often than usual.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
- Minimising contact between individuals and continuing to maintain social distancing where possible.
- Engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- Manage any confirmed cases following PHE and local health protection team advice.

What will happen should a child resist adhering to social distancing?

- Please find attached an appendix to our behaviour policy. As you can appreciate, behaviour that could risk or jeopardise the health and safety of others cannot be tolerated and we must ensure that we have new procedures and sanctions to support this. This appendix to the behaviour policy will be in place while COVID-19 remains.

Will my child have to wear uniform from 7th September?

- Children will be required to wear uniform. This is following the government guidelines that schools should follow their usual uniform policies and procedures.
- For the autumn term, we are allowing children to wear trainers to school rather than their usual school shoes. We are hoping to get the children outdoors as much as possible and more comfortable footwear would allow for some of these activities to go on safely without them having to change.
- Children will not need to change for PE lessons for the first half of term.
- Please find attached information about purchasing school uniform. Orders are currently taking 12-14 days.
- <https://www.abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk/school-uniform>



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What should I do if my child or family member presents with symptoms?

- Should anyone in the family present with COVID-19 symptoms the child must not attend school. Please inform the school immediately should this occur and we will support you with what needs to happen next.
- Should a child present with symptoms whilst in school, they will be isolated and parents will be contacted immediately and be required to collect from school as soon as possible.

Finally, as we come towards the end of term, those of you who have undertaken the mammoth task of supporting your children with home learning since March may well be desperate for the end of term. We would ask you to 'hang in there' for the last week and keep going, as every extra session you can manage will have a positive impact on how easy your child finds it to get back into their learning in September. Please do enjoy the time you have with your child during the final week of home schooling. In school, often this is a time where we have creative things going on or trips and visits are often taking place. These experiences are so important to children's learning and development. Do take time to look at all the things you have achieved at home together and discuss the progress that has been made. For many of you, this will have been a really positive experience.

We really admire the efforts everyone has gone to with home learning and do understand that it has had a significant impact on everyone. With just one week left, this is a good point to look back and be really proud of everything that you have achieved. It doesn't matter how much time you have been able to give to it or whichever format you have worked in, if you have done your best to keep a thread of learning going then your child will find it easier on their return. There have been some exceptional examples of hard work, involvement and creativity with some lovely photos and videos being sent in as a record of work beyond the work set by the teachers. Thank you for all of your efforts. I am sorry we have been unable to get your children in before the new academic year, this really has been unprecedented times for all of us but we really are looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Best wishes

Kevin Martin
Headteacher



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