



Abbas and Templecombe
Church of England Primary School
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5th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Parent Update

I hope this update finds you all well. This will be the last parent update as we will return to our usual newsletter next week.

So - our final week of home-learning - a relief for some of you I am sure! Again this week teachers have been really pleased with the work the children are uploading. There have been some excellent pieces. For some children, the return to school on Monday will be something they are really looking forward to; they will be very keen to catch up with friends. However for others, coming back into school will cause some worries and concerns. If you feel your child is going to fall into the latter group, please do email us so that we are able to offer them the support they need.

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming the children back into school. Staff have been very busy preparing and ensuring that, as well as providing engaging and interesting lessons, they are also building in activities to support the children's wellbeing.

We all hope that once we open on Monday, we will remain open until the Easter break, but this will be subject to us not having any further positive cases. The good news is that the success of this is in your hands! When the children return, the country will still be running under 'lockdown' rules so if we all work together to follow these rules as much as we can, it will give us the best chance of remaining open.

As a reminder, government lockdown rules currently state that:

- You should not leave your home without a 'reasonable excuse' (see link below)
- You should minimise time spent outside your home, but you can leave your home to exercise
- Playgrounds are primarily open for use by children who do not have access to private outdoor space, like their own garden. Although you can take your children to a playground for exercise, you must not socialise with other people while there.
- You have to meet certain eligibility rules to form a support or childcare bubble. This means not everyone will be able to form a bubble. (see link below)

www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#meeting-other-people

Whilst we understand that this lockdown has been particularly challenging for some families, we all have a responsibility to ensure that we are following the rules for the safety of staff and children in school. With this in mind, please ensure you have read the updated risk assessment attached (V3 - 08.03.2021), so that you are able to confidently adhere to our procedures.

In the last month we have seen a surge in positive cases in our school community with 12 reported cases and on Thursday we were informed of a further positive covid case in a child in school. What this has really highlighted to us is how long the virus 'hangs around' for and how quickly it can spread, as well as the fact that children don't always display the classic three covid symptoms. We really do need everyone to be extra vigilant of children's health so we can do our very best to stop an outbreak.

We all want stability for our children so let's work together to follow the rules and achieve this. All children deserve to be back in school full time and all parents deserve to be relieved of their home-schooling duties!

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm. Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test. Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Hot Meals

Piskula will return to serving hot meals from Monday 8th March. We will be starting on Week 1 of the rolling menu which can be accessed on our school website. If you wish to make any alterations to your child's choices, please email Mrs Russell directly at DRussell@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Mrs Carr's Crafts

As you know, Mrs Carr has been providing wonderful craft packs to school during lockdown which have been very popular. She has very kindly offered to continue with this until Easter. Currently we have projects 5, 6 and 7 awaiting collection from the front office. Please do keep hold of your finished products as it would be lovely to see them all when we are able to bring items into school.

We look forward to welcoming you all through the correct gate on Monday! A quick reminder for parents please to wear a mask at drop off and pick up please and do call us if your child is at all unwell so that we can discuss this before they come into school.

Yours faithfully



Melissa Brazier
Acting Headteacher