

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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8 September 2020

Dear Families

Ref: Covid-19 – a reminder of our approach at Abbot's Lea School

As we start our new school year you will notice there are many changes in how we are operating as a school. We are following government guidance and putting in several controls to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19. You can see a full copy of our Covid-19 risk assessment on our website:

<http://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Risk-Assessment-v5-28.8.2020.pdf>

We will regularly review our risk assessment as guidance from the government is updated and as we identify various operational situations from which we will learn “on the ground”.

Whilst the government have indicated that the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and it is important that our whole school community work together to protect each other.

We have organised our school to keep children in clear and consistent ‘bubbles’. This will help us as a school to limit the number of contacts children have with different people whilst still delivering an effective curriculum. We then created “zones” with several bubbles within them. Zones are simply geographical parts of the school corridors, forming a logical separation area.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you and your children can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
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Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

It is important that outside of school we all follow the government guidance around Covid-19, particularly the Stay at Home guidance below and do not bring your child into school.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

If you do keep your child off school due to Covid-19 symptoms, please ensure that you let us know this when you register your child's absence by emailing covid@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

If your child is off school, we will provide school work, so they can keep up their learning at home.

If your child presents Covid-19 symptoms whilst at school, we will take your child to a safe area in school (for example: First Aid Room), and contact you immediately to pick them up. Please note that your child will not be entitled to the SEND School Transport and that the school staff will not be able to drive your child home either.

Please make sure that your emergency contact details are up to date and correct by contacting reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk to check that we have your details.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

It is vitally important that anyone who presents with Covid-19 symptoms gets tested as soon as possible.

If someone from within school is confirmed with Covid-19, we will get in touch with the families of any children who have been in close contact with this person. This is likely to be children from their 'bubble' or the "zone". These children will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. Other members of the household **do not** need to self-isolate, unless your child also develops symptoms. Full details and instructions will be provided at the time. We will also send information to our wider school community as a reminder to our families of what actions you can take to reduce the spread of the virus.

I would like to close by reminding all of us that we have a role to play to ensure that our children and school community remain safe.

Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Yours faithfully



Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher