



Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary School
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Headteacher : **Mrs Claire Matthews**
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Interim Assistant Head Teacher : **Mrs Wilcock**

4th January 2021

Dear All,

Firstly a very Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to the Spring Term 2021! We hope that you all had a lovely break over Christmas and that you all stayed safe and well.

It would be very difficult to have missed the current media coverage around school opening/closing and as such I thought it would be helpful to reassure parents that we have kept up to date with all local and national guidance and updated our risk assessment accordingly. All teaching staff (and Mrs Nixon!) have been in school today and our current plan is to be open tomorrow for **all children**. However, we are aware that Boris Johnson is making a further announcement this evening at 8pm and this may (or may not!) change our plans!

We do know that even if a further lockdown is announced, we will remain open for children of critical workers. Therefore, given the uncertainty about the announcements we feel it is sensible for us to ask parents who are critical workers to complete the attached form, letting us know whether their child/children require a place at school if we do need to close. It would be really appreciated if we could have these returned **as soon as possible** to support us with our staffing plan.

If the school does close, we are well placed to begin online learning and have also decided to make school IT equipment such as iPads and laptops available to families who expressed a concern about IT access through our online IT form last term. We will be in contact about this with more information tomorrow.

If we are open, please could I urge all parents to follow the Tier 4 guidance in order to keep our school community as safe as possible. With this in mind please can I remind all families of the importance of the following:

- Please leave our site promptly when dropping and collecting your child/children, avoiding the temptation to gather in the car park or wild wood area.
- Please do not gather socially outside of school – your children are in a ‘bubble’ at school but this bubble structure ends when they leave the school and Tier 4 rules must be followed.
- We would encourage all adults to wear a face covering whilst on our school site.
- Please limit what your child brings to school – just their indoor shoes to change into and reading book folder.
- Ventilation is key in classrooms so we would encourage you to use layers of clothing for your children and send a school jumper/cardigan every day. They will also need a coat every day as we will be outside at break and lunch times as much as possible.
- Given the uncertainty about school opening, we have decided to offer a packed lunch option to all school meal children for the remainder of this week.

Many thanks for your continued support of our school and we hope to see you all tomorrow!

Kind regards,

Claire Matthews
Headteacher

Our church school creates a firm foundation where together, with God's help and with the help of others, we learn for life, achieve our best and grow in faith.

