

ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'

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Headteacher: Mr G Moore



'It Really Does Matter'

27th August 2020

Whole School Letter and FAQs

Dear Parents,

Although school will still look slightly different when your children return in September, I can wholeheartedly reassure you that the Abbotswood staff are looking forward to seeing all of the children again.

So, what will the school look like in September?

Firstly, all year groups will be returning to school every day from Monday 7th September. Therefore, we have been busy making arrangements for this; focusing on the hygiene and safety guidelines provided. For example, many of you will have seen pictures of our new marquee and sinks on our school Facebook page.





As previously mentioned, I fully appreciate that the staggered start and finish times are not ideal. However, these staggered times are essential to keep large numbers of children/adults apart as they arrive and leave school. This is particularly important in such a large school as Abbotswood. I also appreciate that some of our times clash with our 'feeder' infant schools – I can only apologise for this.

If you are unable to make alternative arrangements, we will do all that we can to cater for your needs. We do want to help our families return to their daily lives as per normal. I, for one, cannot wait until we can revert to our 'normal' school day.

Note: we will be replying to individuals before the start of term.

We look forward to seeing you next week. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Glenn Moore
Headteacher

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. On what days will my child be in school?

All children will attend 5 days per week as normal although start/finish times will be different (see the attached document).

2. Where will I drop my child off in the morning, where do I collect them from and can they walk alone to school?

- The gates at the side of the school (by Lawford Way) will be closed at all times. Entry/exit to the school will be via the Ringwood Road entrance only.
- Times for each year group are listed on the attached document. It is vital that you keep to this schedule and that the children do not arrive early/late. We will still be adhering to social distancing (especially with so many adults present) and markers/crosses will be clearly set out on the walkway to school and on the playground.
- Unfortunately, no adults are allowed onto the school site and the car park will be closed to all cars apart from staff.
- **Children are able to walk home alone and you need to state this by emailing admin.office@abbsch.co.uk with your child's full name and class details.**
- If an adult accompanies your child, we would politely ask if this could be restricted to one adult. You should only bring siblings if you have no other alternative. Thank you.
- The children will exit via the same playground at the end of the day. Again, we would ask parents to keep to their child's specified time of collection.

3. What will the class sizes be?

Children will be taught in class 'bubbles' of 30. They will remain with this group of children for the duration of their time in school, including break and lunch time.

4. Who will teach my child?

Their class teacher(s) will teach your child. However, other teachers, such as our Sports Coaches for PE, will also teach them.

5. Will my child need to wear school uniform?

Yes. However, they should wear their PE/games kit all day on both their PE and OSA days (details to follow).

6. What will my child be learning?

Although we realise that the children have missed a period of formal schooling, our aim is to get back things back to 'normal' as soon as possible. Therefore, children will be taught a broad range of subjects across the whole National Curriculum.

7. What will happen at break/lunch times and will there be school dinners?

All break/lunch times have been organised around very strict timetables. Each year group will have their breaks at different times and each class 'bubble' will remain separate from the others.

Note: break and lunch times will be shorter. For example, we are holding four separate dinner sittings and each year group will have 30 minutes for lunch. This means that our lunchtime for all children will now last for 2 hours. I hope that you can all appreciate our reasoning behind this.

Break and lunch times will be spent with their 'bubble' and the children will use a specified area on the school site.

There will be 3 school dinner choices available each day. Please check our website for further details (<https://www.abbotswood.hants.sch.uk/dinner-menu>) – week 2 menu.

Staggered break and lunch times		
Year group	Break	Lunch
6	10.00-10.15	11.30-12.00
3	10.25-10.40	12.00-12.30
4	10.50-11.05	12.30-13.00
5	11.15-11.30	13.00-13.30

Important – Year 5 lunch starts later at 1pm. Therefore, they may require a break time snack.

8. What happens if my child is taken ill during the day?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

9. Will I be able to come into school to see my child's teacher?

Unfortunately not. Any correspondence with the school should be via email and sent to admin.office@abbsch.co.uk.

10. Will my child be getting homework?

There will be no homework for the first few weeks back and Year Leaders will keep in touch about any changes.

11. How will you ensure that the children are safe?

We will do everything in our power to make sure your children are safe (and happy) in school. The school cleaning regime has been heightened even further and we will be following the Government's guidelines on keeping children in 'bubbles' yet, as recognised by the Department for Education, it will not always be possible to socially distance the children in their 'bubble' when the whole school returns. This is important to remember.

12. How will classrooms be organised?

The children will be sitting at their desks, in rows, facing the front. They will work in small groups on the carpet with the Teacher or LSA.

13. Other important information.

- The children should not bring anything in from home other than a packed lunch and a water bottle because lockers will not be in use.
- The children will come dressed in their PE kits so will not require a bag for their sportswear.
- The corridors have been marked out with arrows and we will be using a one-way system to walk around the school.
- The children will not need bags in school.
- There will be no morning tuck shop – your child can bring a break time snack in their lunchbox.
- The children will be provided with the equipment they need and it will only be used and touched by them.
- All rooms will be cleaned continuously throughout the day. We will also regularly disinfect rooms with our new ‘Fogger’, which was kindly donated by one of our parents.