



Abbey Meads Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Covid Update

I am writing to briefly bring you up to date with the school's current situation regarding Covid cases. This term we have had 50 reported to us in 2 weeks, which is more than we had for the previous 4 months. It is clear that cases are increasing dramatically and are now affecting staff.

We do not want to alarm you - this is the case everywhere - but we do feel you should know the facts and the extent to which our school resources are stretched, in some cases just to keep classes open.

We have already cancelled non-essential visitors to the school for the next few weeks and face to face meetings with colleagues in other schools have moved to online.

With this in mind, the school discos have already been cancelled by FOAMS and we are likely to cancel the Book Look on 9th February, as we are advised to reduce the number of unnecessary large group gatherings.

Thank you to those already lateral flow testing their children. Several age groups are already doing this daily, to help us isolate cases before they come to school. This has been really helpful, but also adds to the numbers testing positive, who would otherwise have been unaware.

Many of you may wish to increase to daily lateral flow tests for a week, just for peace of mind.

You may hear in the news that the government are considering removing the Plan B restrictions, but we will struggle if you do not continue to support us as we fight this latest wave.

For the next week or two - *regardless of government 'advice'* - to help me keep our school open and avoid the closure of classes, please do the following:

- 1. Always wear a mask when on school site. Our positive cases have doubled overnight! Please help us keep you, as well as other people, safe.**
- 2. Respect distances when approaching staff. We are working with children all day, many of whom are asymptomatic. Protect yourselves as well as us by socially distancing.**
- 3. Please join daily Year Group Lateral Flow Testing when asked to by the office.**
- 4. Continue to remind your child about handwashing and respecting personal space.**
- 5. Do not send your child to school if they have symptoms, book a PCR Test instead!**
- 6. If waiting for a PCR test result, please stay off.**
- 7. If there are no symptoms and you have a positive LFT - isolate immediately (this means do not leave the house) for the 5 days plus two negative tests 24 hours apart.**

Many Thanks - Bob