



Abbey Meads Community Primary School

Hugo Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN25 4GY

Head Teacher: Mr Robert M. Buckley

Telephone: 01793 723239

Email: admin@abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk

Website: www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk

2nd September 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new academic year and the start of what we know as 2021-2022.

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who agreed to be supportive of the school and their children, by wearing a mask or face covering whilst on site.

Government guidance states, "The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet." We consider our playgrounds to be potentially crowded spaces with people you do not normally meet.

Despite a relaxation of measures, we have already received many calls about families affected by either positive cases within their family, or being identified as close contacts, and we only opened today!

As you know, we retained some of our internal and external arrangements so we can see how things go in the first instance. Like many of you we hope that we can return 'to normal' as soon as possible, but thank you for your understanding as we try and get things right for the long term safety and happiness of all children. As I have said before, people can choose to go to festivals, nightclubs and Premier League stadiums full of spectators – but you do not get to choose whether your child comes to school.

You will remember the details for arrival and collection. These were given to you back in July and can still be found on our website by following this link: [September Opening 2021](#)

I have copied the timings on the end of this letter as well, in case you have difficulties locating the original.

Obviously, if a person has symptoms they need to self-isolate until the result of a PCR test is known.

For close contacts, the regulations now state that those who are fully vaccinated, or younger than 18.5 years old, do not need to isolate, *unless they have symptoms*. They are advised to get a PCR test, but do not need to isolate whilst waiting for that result, *unless they have symptoms*.

There are many families who are already stating that they feel uncomfortable sending one child to school knowing their siblings or parents have tested positive and they are in the same home.

We sympathise and will support your decision to miss school where a positive case is in your household.

Where a positive case is identified in a class or Year Group, children should come in to school as normal.

Only those identified by Track and Trace as close contacts will be requested to PCR test, but not requested to isolate unless testing positive themselves. We can no longer support families choosing to keep children off school as a result of anxiety caused by positive cases outside their own home.

Children who are out of school because they have a positive test result will be directed to work they can do at home (providing they are well enough to access this). This work is only provided when there is no choice but to be off school and it is expected that the 10-day pack will only be needed once by every child. The work provided will not be live sessions – the teachers cannot be in two places at once! The work will be provided as a mix of worksheets and activities, alongside specially selected pre-recorded lessons from the relevant age group. The person delivering these lessons may not be your child's current teacher.

There are a series of Curriculum Briefings next week for each age group. The codes for these ZOOM Meetings will be sent to you by the class teachers, but if you have not heard by the day of your meeting, please call the office.

Extract from calendar published July 2021

Sept 7 th	6pm & 7pm	ZOOM Curriculum Briefings - 6pm Year 3 & 7pm Year 2
Sept 8 th	6pm & 7pm	ZOOM Curriculum Briefings - 6pm Year 1 & 7pm FS2 (Reception)
Sept 9 th	6pm & 7pm	ZOOM Curriculum Briefings - 6pm Year 5 & 7pm Year 4

Whilst Year 6 had their Curriculum Briefing in July, we have now set an **Urgent Isle of Wight Trip Zoom Meeting for Year 6 parents on Monday 6th September at 7pm**. It is essential that all children attending the trip are represented as we need to make final agreements on conditions of travel, in the context of the latest government guidance. Children will only be allowed to attend the trip following parental attendance at this meeting and the subsequent agreement being submitted via ParentPay.

The codes for this meeting are in a separate letter sent to Year 6 parents today!

All dates for activities currently set in the school calendar can be [found again here](#).

Staff continue to take two Lateral Flow Tests every week and will do so until told not to by the government. Currently this is at least until the end of September. We are asked to remind all staff and parents that “Lateral Flow Device testing is for asymptomatic cases only. **Anyone with symptoms, however mild, must self-isolate and seek a PCR test at the earliest opportunity**. Members of their household are also encouraged to take a PCR test.”

Our school menu has had a revamp for the start of this school year – orders continue to be taken via ParentPay with payment in advance. Please see below a picture of the menu. This menu plus all allergen codes and details are available in the parent section of our website. Please remember that snacks need to be healthy (fruit, vegetables, cereal bar *without nuts* etc) and we request water only in bottles.

AMCPS - Menu	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
School Favourites Monday 	Sausage Casserole Bean Casserole Mash Fresh Veg: Green Beans and Carrots Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Cheese Pitta Pudding: Apple Crumble & Custard, Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits	Chicken Burger in a bun Fresh Vegetable Noodle stir fry Herbie New Potatoes Fresh Veg: Green Beans, Sweetcorn Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Tuna Wrap Pudding: Iced Sponge Cake Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits	Spaghetti Bolognese Lentil Bolognese Garlic Bread Fresh Beans, Salad sticks etc Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Tuna Wrap Pudding: Syrup Sponge and Custard Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits
Around the World Tuesday 	Chicken Korma Sweet potato, chickpea & Spinach Korma Boiled Rice Onion Bhaji Naan Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Tuna Wrap Pudding: Ice Cream Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits	Chicken Fajitas (mild) Pepper/Courgette Fajitas Mexican Rice Nachos Salad Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Cheese Sandwich Pudding: Cheese Cake Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits	Spanish Chicken in tomato sauce Veggie Paella Wholegrain Rice Fresh Veg: Green Beans Sweetcorn Crusty Bread Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Cheese Sandwich Pudding: Spanish Rice Pudding Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits
Roast Wednesday 	Chicken Roast Leek and Potato Pie Fresh Veg: Roasts, Broccoli, Carrots Stuffing Gravy Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Ham Roll Pudding: Shortbread Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits	Beef Quorn balls Yorkshire puddings Fresh Veg: Roast pots, Cauliflower, Carrots Gravy Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Cheese Pitta Pudding: Raspberry Ripple Mousse Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits	Turkey with Pigs in Blankets & Gravy Ratatouille BAKE – Veggie Roast Pots Fresh Veg: Carrots, Cabbage Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Tuna Wrap Pudding: Chocolate Chip Cookie Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits
Pizza and Pasta Thursday 	Meat Pizza Veggie Pizza Wedges Corn on cob Coleslaw Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Tuna Wrap Pudding: Fruit Jelly with Cream Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits	Beef Lasagne Veggie Lasagne Garlic Bread Fresh Veg: Broccoli and Peas Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Tuna Wrap Pudding: Chocolate sponge cake & Chocolate sauce Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits	Chicken Pasta Veggie Pasta (Gnocchi) Nice Creamy sauce suitable for both? Fresh Veg: Peas, Broccoli Garlic Bread Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Ham Roll Pudding: Flapjack Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits
Fishy Friday 	Cod Bites Macaroni Cheese Chips, Peas, Baked beans Ketchup Jacket Potato: Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Cheese Sandwich Pudding: Jam Doughnuts Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits	Breaded Fish & Chips Risotto Spaghetti Hoops, Sweetcorn Ketchup Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Ham Roll Pudding: Carrot Cake Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits	Jumbo Fish Finger & Chips Quorn Sausages Corn on the cob, Peas Ketchup Jacket Potato Cheese/Beans/Tuna/Salad Grab and Go: Cheese Pitta Pudding: Blueberry Muffin Cake Yogurts, fresh fruit, Cheese & Biscuits

Finally, those times for dropping off and collecting your children, plus other reminders.

- 8.30-8.50am for all children all through the front gate. GATES LOCK AT 8.50AM
As soon as possible this will return to the normal 8.20-8.40am gate opening, but not until it is considered safe to have parents congregating outside classroom doors waiting for the 8.30am opening of classrooms.
- Please respect our request to only use disabled parking if you have a Blue Badge or explicit permission from the school to use the bays.
- Senior Staff will be on the gates to make sure any children dropped off on the turning circle make it to the playground.
- **PLEASE WEAR A FACE COVERING / MASK WHILST ON SITE.**

Extract from letter – 21st July 2021

From September Collection times and locations at the end of the day are:

Nursery	11.30am or 3.15pm (depends on session)	Nursery Gate
Reception	3pm (1.30pm Fridays)	Nursery Gate
Year 1Alder	2.50pm (1.20pm Fridays)	Main Gate
Year 1Birch	2.55pm (1.25pm Friday)	Main Gate
Year 2Chestnut	3.00pm (1.30pm Fridays)	Main Gate
Year 2Hornbeam	3.05pm (1.35pm Fridays)	Main Gate
Year 3Rowan	3.10pm (1.40pm Fridays)	Main Gate
Year 3Sycamore	3.15pm (1.45pm Fridays)	Main Gate
Year 4Juniper	2.50pm (1.20pm Fridays)	Shops Gate
Year 4Willow	2.55pm (1.25pm Friday)	Shops Gate
Year 5Ash	3.00pm (1.30pm Fridays)	Shops Gate
Year 5Oak	3.05pm (1.35pm Fridays)	Shops Gate
Year 5Maple	3.10pm (1.40pm Fridays)	Shops Gate
Year 6	3.15pm (1.45pm Fridays)	Shops Gate

A few useful documents if you haven't seen them before can be found using these links.

[How to stay safe and prevent spread from 19 July \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-safe-and-prevent-spread-from-19-july)

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

[Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-tracing-for-people-with-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person)

[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance)

Thank you again for all the support we have received over the last two school years and for your continued understanding as we try to carefully plot our way back to 'normality'.

Bob

Bob Buckley