



Abbey Meads Community Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing with some news which I realise may cause some challenges for working parents and have endeavoured to give as much notice of this as possible in the circumstances.

Having recently sought the guidance and advice of external experts (Ramsbury English Hub) regarding the school's phonics and reading provision, we have decided to change the programme that is followed by our pupils as they begin their reading journey. This is because we do not believe that our current programme is delivering our pupils the best possible quality of education, despite the best efforts of our staffing team. Whilst phonics outcomes at Abbey Meads Community Primary School remain strong and above national average, we strongly believe that they can be further improved by a change of provider and, in accordance with Ramsbury English Hub's strong recommendations, wish to do this as soon as possible.

In order to begin this transition, all school staff will attend a full day of training to ensure that the consistency that is fundamental to successful phonics provision can be established right from the start. Key Stage 2 staff also require training as phonics programmes use common language and approaches that must be continued throughout a child's time in primary school.

As a result, we have sought the permission of the Blue Kite Academy Trust to hold an **additional closure day on Tuesday 4th June 2024**. Unfortunately, this means that **the school will need to be closed to children on this day**. I appreciate that for some families this may present an additional challenge and greatly regret not being able to provide more than 4 months' notice. We have added it to the start of Term 6, rather than the middle of a term, in an attempt to make things easier.

The change of provision will have a positive impact on pupils throughout the school and should be particularly beneficial to our most disadvantaged or vulnerable pupils, who already face the most significant barriers to successfully learning to read and as a result to long term success in life. It is this factor that is the primary driver of our decision and is an area where we, as educators, are not prepared to compromise.

We will align homework tasks and challenges to include this day, so that those wanting to use this task for home learning on the day may do so. The homework will be set over a period of time, so will be optional if done on 4th June or another time. Those wishing to take advantage of an additional day off school at the end of the half term break may do so.

Once again, I apologise for the inconvenience that this additional day out of school may cause some families. I strongly believe that the benefits of this decision for all our pupils outweigh the drawbacks.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Bob



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