



BRAMPTON ABBOTTS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Headteacher: Mr D Brearey
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S Herriott*

Brampton Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 7FX

Tel: 01989 562256 • Email: admin@bramptonabbotts.hereford.sch.uk • Web: www.bramptonabbotts.org

DATE: 4th April 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

As the Spring Term drew to a close yesterday, I reflected that if you had told me this time last year (as we celebrated Easter during our annual end of term Easter Service) that all schools would be locked down and only open to a small handful of children, I would have laughed in your face! Such is the difference a year can make.

The past two and a half weeks have been some of the most interesting in my career to date (I've no doubt this is similar for many of you). However, it is important to remember that we are still a primary school that aims to offer an education for all of our children.

Thank you to all of you for your support and well wishes at this time. I am sure that each and every parent and carer over the past fortnight has had their share of challenges with 'home-schooling' and/or working from home. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything that you have done to support your children in these challenging circumstances.

Annual reports are due to be sent out next week. We hope they prove of interest. Please note, these were all written prior to the recent events taking over and so I apologise if teachers refer to 'business as usual' instead of accounting for school being closed. However, I still feel they are important and offer an insight into your child at school.

Over the Easter break (if we can call it that!) I have decided to close the school. I have been in close contact with all of the families of Key Workers and/or vulnerable children and in all cases alternative arrangements had already been made for the Easter period. However, I am aware that these next two weeks are not normal in any way. I have decided that we should treat them as a break of sorts for our school staff to give them the opportunity to spend time with their families. However, we will be posting daily fun family activities for you all to take part in. Our teachers and support staff have all had a role in preparing these activities and we hope that they will prove helpful and fun over the next two weeks.

We will be sharing an activity per day via our main Facebook page, on the SeeSaw blogging website/app, and on our school website. We will also be sending out reminders via text message of where to find each daily activity. Whilst our teachers won't necessarily respond to SeeSaw or Facebook posts about what you've been doing, I know it will be an opportunity for our school community to come together in sharing fun things you have been doing at home over this strange time and come together in some small way.

After Easter, school will be open again for the children of Key Workers. Whilst we encourage all children to, where possible, stay at home and stay distanced, we appreciate that some families have to work to keep key services going (please refer to my previous letter outlining who these key worker groups are). Again, I ask you to make direct contact with me via email (or text the school text service number) on head@bramptonabbotts.hereford.sch.uk by Friday 10th April to confirm the child-care arrangements you require for the week/s after the Easter fortnight so that I can ensure the correct level of staffing each day.

I do not know how long this period of 'lock-down' is due to last. However, it seems increasingly likely that much of the Summer Term may well be spent in this way. To this end, I have met with all staff in both schools (virtually!) to discuss how we best continue with our home-schooling offer. We intend to offer more regular daily structure that you can access via the SeeSaw blogging website/app. We are also planning regular face-to-face meet ups for each class to offer our children the opportunity to see each other and have a chat! Some of the older classes are also using video to support their teaching too.

As a school we will be recommending that all children working at home engage with home learning of some kind for the following periods:

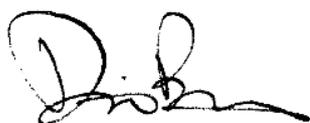
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - 1 hour of focused work per day (please spread this out over the day to make this a manageable as possible).
- Year 3 to year 6 - 2 hours of focused work per day (again, please spread this out over the day to make this a manageable as possible).

These are just guidelines! Please do not use this as a stick to beat you children with (you get what I mean!). As I wrote in my previous post on Facebook, you are not all teachers and we do not expect you to be. However, this will not stop our staff trying to offer the best education they can in the circumstances. I hope you understand this.

I know staff have worked hard to try and offer opportunities for all children to learn from home. I realise there are still parents & carers that have yet to access SeeSaw and I would encourage those to sign up and do so as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact our teachers directly, via their school email addresses, should you require support doing this. They will be happy to help in any way they can.

Finally, I would like to finish by wishing everyone a safe and uneventful Easter period. Please take care and try to have some fun family time - that's my plan - though making Easter a special holiday without being able to leave the house or garden might prove somewhat challenging with a 1 and 3 year old!!

Yours sincerely,



Dan Brearey
Headteacher