



Abbey Meads Community Primary School

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Dear Parents,

As you are aware, the next stage of our remote learning programme rolls out from Monday. As a Trust, our policy is for teachers to provide pre-recorded lessons. There are obvious safeguarding reasons why live lessons can be difficult and sometimes dangerous, not least because we cannot control what others will do on the end of a live feed. However, the actual reason for this decision is to acknowledge the fact that not all families have a sufficient number of devices for all their children to learn at once. If one of our children doesn't have access to a device at the time of a live lesson, maybe because a sibling or parent needs the computer at that time, then the learning has gone. Pre-recorded lessons can not only be seen at any time, but also revisited again and again. You organise your learning around your life and not the other way around.

Each age group has a set of pre-recorded lessons and follow-up activities every day. These are designed and published by your teachers. By 9am each Monday there will be a week of work published in One Drive folders, one for each day, so you can plan your week. In addition, there will be periodic story times, a weekly '*Keep Fit with Stratts & Shore*' video etc. If next week's folder appears and is empty, please do not contact us before 9am on the Monday of that week. Children in Nursery and Reception already work via [Tapestry](#) and this will continue – a link to Tapestry remains on our Website.

A link to these weekly folders will be published in each Year Group's Purple Mash Blog every Monday and the main link will also remain on the school website – follow the [Covid 19](#) tab at the top of the home page. We would like to know that children are accessing these lessons and every week ask you to refresh your link to the work folders by logging in to the Purple Mash Blog, where a new link is issued each week.

There will also be an expectation for children to complete and return some work via email to the teachers. We do not want every single piece of work returned and many sessions will have not only the lesson video and follow up activities, but also answers where appropriate. Please use these answers to help you correct any work you have done with your child. The teachers will make it clear when there is an activity to be returned. Please be aware that feedback in this way is much more time consuming than if in a normal classroom. So any feedback via the class emails will be succinct.

We would like you to keep all work completed and bring that back in after lockdown, so we can celebrate with the children how much work they have completed. You will be invited to contribute to the weekly newsletter, which will relaunch next week. We will also log how many times children join Purple Mash to get the login link, which may also be celebrated on return (and even in assemblies).

Each Year Group has a dedicated email address, which parents can use to ask for support and teachers can answer any questions and queries that arise from the learning. The Purple Mash Blog also helps with this as everyone can see other people's questions. It also allows troubleshooting, if a link isn't working or if you lose your online logins and passwords for Times Tables Rockstars, Mathletics, Purple Mash, Spelling Shed and others as identified for you by the teachers.

It is hoped that these email accounts can be used sparingly and not include lengthy email content, but they will be monitored regularly to ensure support is on hand when needed.



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The Blue Kite
Academy Trust
Abbey Meads Community Primary School
is part of The Blue Kite Academy Trust



Whilst there are lessons online, there are also some teaching staff in school every day, supporting our teaching assistants who will be working with the critical worker groups. These children will use the same materials in school as their classmates at home.

Mr Shore, Mrs Rowley and Miss Clarke in the main school, along with Mrs Wright or Mrs Painter in Nursery, will join Mrs Cunningham and myself in school every day. This means you may not hear their voices or see their faces on the videos as often if you are at home. They are working in school each day alongside all our support staff, whilst the other teaching staff will be working from home for the vast majority of each week, planning activities and pre-recording the following week's lessons.

You can find all you need on our website www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk – where the Covid-19 page <https://www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk/covid-19> has Online Learning Information half way down the page. This is where you will also find the email addresses to use for help/communication with the teachers. Links to other online programmes we use are on our curriculum page ...

<https://www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk/curriculum> and we also have the Blue Kite Learning Platform, to which you can always return for other activities and fun:

<https://thebluekitetrust.wixsite.com/ourlearningplatform>

If all else fails you can always call the office 01793 723239 / admin@abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk and ask for help from our admin team, who will put you in touch with one of us to help you.

If you find yourself in this position, you are likely to be frustrated. Please remember we do not plan for technology to fail and do not intentionally organise things to go wrong. However, even in the 21st Century this does happen. Please stay calm, treat us with kindness, and understanding of the difficulties we are facing in providing this remote learning, and we will continue to do the same.

To create space for online stories and fitness videos, we will be taking down the Nativity videos from Vimeo on Monday. There is one last chance to watch these over the weekend and we have enabled download, so you can keep a copy and embarrass your children when they are much older.

<https://vimeo.com/user124261893>

Don't forget you can watch lessons and videos on all devices including Xbox, tablets and smart phones. You can watch our video on how to use an Xbox to see the lesson videos and Vimeo stories/fitness.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTBgD_gUkfk.

We are trying to get the same freedom with Play Station but sometimes the data is not supported.

As we move into more intensive home learning, please be kind to yourselves. You know your child's limitations, so don't get stressed by any parent social media groups! Remember home learning, in small ratios, is much more intensive than being in a class of 30+. ***It can take a little while to catch children back up with their learning, but it can take a lifetime to repair emotional scars.*** Look after each other and if at any point you need help, support, an ear to listen – please just call us.

We have people who can help on every level, either through the school or through our network of services available through Lighthouse (Part of The Blue Kite Trust). Just ask.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to everyone for your support and understanding during these difficult times. We have had so many kind messages, donations of tablets, offers of help etc. I feel so privileged to be a part of such a wonderful community.

I will be keeping you up to date with any developments and changes to guidance through letters as they occur. I hope we might be able to return to just the weekly newsletter, but we will see.

Take care, stay safe out there,

Bob

Follow us on Twitter.

It is easy and you will find links and further info posted regularly.

https://twitter.com/AMCPS_Swindon

