



# Abbey Meads Community Primary School

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18<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing as promised with an update on our Covid Procedures and the EVENTS coming up in Term 2. Please read the whole letter, even if you are one of those who is sick of Covid messages. This letter contains information about Nativities as well.

We have been given this updated guidance this week:

We recommend a continuation of the following control measures (in addition to those you are already using)

1. Halt 'whole school' assemblies for the time being and any other 'large gatherings and mixing'.  
Our whole school assemblies have been via Zoom and not yet changed.  
We have changed the way we are holding assemblies and nativities to reduce large gatherings.  
FOAMS Discos will be cancelled to avoid unnecessary crowding of adults when collecting children, and will be replaced by free internal disco opportunities for the children as part of Christmas Party celebrations in school time.  
Christmas plays in the hall will be restricted to parents from single classes per performance, to once again restrict the numbers and social groupings mixing at any one time.  
**Please ensure you only attend the performance allocated to your child's class.**
2. Introduce face coverings in communal areas such as corridors when movement occurs between lessons  
We have not changed our policy on this and we are thankful to all for helping us by continuing to do so – especially when entering crowded areas – even outside.
3. Reduce mixing between groups of students as much as possible.  
We retained our bubbles in September and did not return to the free-for-all seen in some schools on TV News reports – we continue to do so.
4. Continue social distancing and good infection prevention control (ventilation, touchpoint cleaning) amongst staff as much as possible due to the large numbers of staff who are contracting the virus.  
This continues in our school - along with restricted areas for gathering, socially distanced, and staff self-testing with Lateral Flows twice a week and daily when a possibility of being a remote contact or PCR if considered an actual contact.
5. Promote and publicise the effectiveness of vaccination as the best protection for all eligible cohorts including staff and students.  
We continue to inform you of all initiatives and opportunities for health protection as staff and parents. There are no cohorts in our school considered eligible for vaccination.

As you will have read above, in conjunction with FOAMS, we have decided to cancel the Christmas Discos and replace them with other opportunities during our Christmas celebrations in school. There is the potential, over the life of a child's time in our school, to attend 42 discos, so we know these experiences will return again. We don't want to risk 'large gatherings and mixing' leaving our families with the unwanted gift of illness for the Christmas Holidays.

We also want to ensure parents get to see Nativities and other Christmas events which only happen once in a child's life in the school.

Please see page 2 for final details on times and events.



## Events for the remainder of Term 2 2021.

- **Tomorrow (19<sup>th</sup>) - Children in Need Day** - Non-Uniform or Sports Kit
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November - NON-UNIFORM day for Christmas Hamper donations**  
Please see tomorrow's newsletter for the list of items
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November evening - Christmas Market Night - 5.30-8.30pm**  
See poster in previous and tomorrow's newsletter
- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** - last day for donations to the **Swindon Christmas Toy Appeal**.  
Again, see newsletters for information (organised by Swindon Borough Council)
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Jumper Day** - wear Jumpers with Uniform
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December - 9.30am - Acorn Nativity performance 1** - those attending will be in contact by Mrs Wright
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December - 9.30am - Acorn Nativity performance 2** - those attending will be in contact by Mrs Wright
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December - 2.15pm - Year 1 Christmas Songs**  
**ALL Families get two (2) tickets to attend and this event will be outside. We expect visitors to respect our request to wear face coverings when in crowded spaces and to socially distance as much as possible. We hope the outside location will allow all to attend at the same time. The limit on numbers is set at 60 children x 2 adults = 120 in the audience.**
- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Reception (FS2) Nativity - 9.15am for Beech parents.**
- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Reception (FS2) Nativity - 2.15pm for Hazel parents.**
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Year 2 Christmas Play - 9.15am for 2Chestnut parents.**
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Year 2 Christmas Play - 2.15pm for 2Hornbeam parents.**  
**All 4 Nativity performances are restricted to an audience of parents from one class only - who already mix when collecting their children. Two (2) tickets per family are allocated with a maximum of 30 children x 2 adults per performance = 60 adults, sat in pairs and spaced out in the hall. Please only attend the one performance allocated to your child's class.**
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Lunch Day** - those not having a School Christmas Lunch will need to bring a packed lunch.
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December - last day of Term 2** for children - normal Thursday timings.
- **WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> January - first day of Term 3** for children.

As a reminder, the morning opening time is 8.30am, but you can start to arrive at 8.20am.

YOU remain responsible for your children until they cross the classroom threshold.

Leaving them on the turning circle remains your risk that your child arrives at the classroom.

You have until 8.45am to get your child to class, when the gates lock.

In the afternoon we open the gates just before 3pm, but we know some will not arrive until slightly

after this time. We can not release 30 children through the door all at once and we do not want a Black Friday type stampede to be first in the line. Please know we expect children to be collected as soon as possible at 3pm but that those wanting to space out more will not be there exactly at 3pm.

If you are concerned about mixing, please just hold back a few minutes, it really is just a few minutes before the playgrounds clear, and collect your child after the majority have left site.

This is NOT us changing the end of the day to 3.10pm, just us being understanding of parents who need to delay their arrival by a few minutes to avoid large gatherings.

Thank you for your support and understanding. By working together, we are managing to have live audiences for the class performances, which is not something all schools can manage.

Bob Buckley  
Headteacher