



# Abbotskerswell Primary School

Slade Lane, Abbotskerswell, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 5NS

Tel: (01626) 353605 Email: [admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Website: [www.abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk)



Thursday 5th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all, I would like to say a huge thank you for all of your support and understanding in helping make the best of a bad situation we have found ourselves in. With the second National Lockdown just beginning, and only a limited amount of additional guidance for schools, we felt it was important to share some of our thoughts at the moment.

As far as we are aware, school can continue as we have been – we will endeavour to make sure that the children are safe, happy and well cared for whilst continuing to have access to high quality education. If impending guidance means we need to change the way we are working, we will let you know.

Given the higher expectations to limit contact from today, we ask that you take extra care to really distance yourself and your children from other children and families to an even greater degree than you already are. In order to support the new rules for 'out of school' it would seem sensible that everyone spreads out further, even if this takes a little longer.

More than ever, we need everyone to drop or collect promptly so we can support ensuring a good distance between everyone. Arriving at the allocated time slots for your child will be particularly helpful. Some parents have fed back to us that they feel uncomfortable with some parents arriving prior to their drop off and waiting outside the gates.

	Drop off	Collection
Kingfisher	8.45am – 8.50am	3.10pm
Swift	8.50am – 8.55am	3.15pm
Robin	8.55am – 9am	3.20pm
Puffins	9.00am – 9.05am	3.05pm

Since September, we have been working to keep the children in their separate class bubbles during the school day. Before and after school they have been able to mix with others in groups of up to six, in line with wider guidelines, as they walk to or from school. The lockdown, starting today, prohibits individuals getting together in groups so, whilst we understand that it may be difficult and need a change of routine, we would ask that you consider how your child gets to and from school.

In addition, those of you who support each other by dropping off or picking up someone else's children will need to make other arrangements (unless you are each other's identified support bubble) now that households will no longer be able to mix.

We are all now facing further challenges in an already difficult situation. We will do everything we can to ensure that school continues to be a safe and secure place with routine, clear expectations, fun, enjoyment and quality learning. We will deal with any requirement for groups or individuals who may need to self-isolate calmly and clearly and will continue to provide support for those children who may need 'a little more' at this time. We are sure that our wider community will continue to show resilience, provide support for each other and maintain a positive approach to the coming weeks that will ensure we all work through this new situation successfully.

I know that many of the staff have really appreciated the support from our local community and parents that has been given. This caring understanding has been crucial at this time as the staff continue to do their jobs, many of who, like yourselves, have their own anxieties.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or information we need to know, please don't hesitate to email [admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk) or call 01626 353605.

## Welcome

I would like to say a friendly welcome to our prospective parents. I am sorry that you are unable to visit the school at the moment to support your decision in finding the right school for your child. Hopefully some of the information coming home will give you a bit of a flavor of school life, albeit very different at the moment. You will now find a short video on the front page of our website which Mr Lawrence, the Reception teacher in Puffin class, has put together to give you a brief glimpse of the school. Do keep an eye on this as Mr Lawrence will be regularly updating this.

## Parents' evenings

I can now confirm that parents' evenings will take place remotely during the penultimate week of term week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> December for children in Robins, Swift and Kingfisher. Further information will come home about how to book a time slot for these in a couple of weeks' time. Puffins parents' evenings will take place the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> November and Mr Lawrence will make contact with you direct.

## Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day marks the day World War One ended, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, in 1918. As a mark of respect the school will be observing a two-minute silence at 11am to remember the people who have sadly lost their lives during all the wars.



Due to the extra safety precautions which are in place due to the Coronavirus, each classroom have their own selection of poppy items for the children in their class to purchase. Please can you provide your child with the correct amount of cash as it will go straight into the donation tin and no change will be available.

Snapback Wristband/Ruler, Normal Ruler & Clip-on Poppy - £1

Paper Poppy, Wristband, Pencil Sharpener, Rubber, Pencil, Button Hanging Poppy – 50p

## Children in Need

Next Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November we will be supporting the fantastic charity Children in Need, who fundraise to help ensure every child in the UK is safe, happy, secure and has the opportunities they need to reach their potential. This year, in light of the coronavirus pandemic, their mission is to promote the importance of caring for the mental health and wellbeing of all children in the UK.



At school we are striving to put our children's mental health and wellbeing at the heart of our teaching and learning, and next Friday we will be inviting every child in our school to take part in a short Wellbeing Yoga Workshop, where they will learn some simple breathing techniques, meditation poses and have a chance to talk about the importance of caring for their own mental health.

The children are able to come dressed in non-uniform, something spotty or Pugsey Bear related and we do ask that it is something comfy that they are able to take part in the yoga session. Please don't feel you have to buy something specific. Please find the link here to the Children in Need website: <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

Due to the current situation regarding Coronavirus we are trying not to deal with cash in school, therefore, all donations will need to be made via Parentpay. We have set up a donation page specific to Children in Need on Parentpay and as soon as they send us the link we will forward this to you (it should be tomorrow). All you will need to do is click on the link, this will take you straight to our school Children in Need donation page. Fill in your details and the amount you would like to donate (the minimum amount is £1) and that's all you need to do.

## **Year 6 Residential**

Some good news... I have now had confirmation that the insurance company will refund all the money in full for the residential. We are in the process of arranging the payments. Hopefully this will come in time for a Christmas bonus for all those who paid money. We really appreciate your patience and understanding throughout the wait.

## **SOE3a Consent Forms**

Thank you to the parents who have returned their completed forms. We still have a few forms outstanding. Could parents please complete these and email them to [admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk) or send it to school via your child. More details can be found on the email sent via Parentpay on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

## **PTFA – thank you**

We would like to say a huge thank you to our fantastic PTFA team, who again managed to conjure up a great way for the children to enjoy Halloween in the village.

## **'It could happen here'**

Just to make you aware that it has been reported to the school that a young person in Abbotskerswell was approached by an unknown man and offered a lift in their van. The police were notified about the incident. Now the nights are drawing in, just to be mindful and keep the approach that 'it could happen here'.



## **Covid Hardship Fund and the Test and Trace Support Payment**

The council is processing applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment which is payment of £500 for people that have to self-isolate for 2 weeks.

Below is the link to apply for the Covid Hardship Fund and the Test and Trace Support Payment.

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### **Covid-19 Symptoms:**

- a high temperature (feeling hot to touch on your chest or back)
- OR
- a new, continuous cough (coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24h, or if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- OR
- a loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste (noticing you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal)

We are aware that there have been some significant problems with access to COVID-19 testing. You will have seen on the news that this is not unique to Devon but none the less is of significant concern. Devon

County Council and PHE have escalated this regionally and nationally but it is unlikely we will see a rapid improvement.

The below are the steps, in order, that should be followed to secure a test:

- **Individuals should only get tested if they have symptoms of coronavirus.**
- Parents or carers of children attending school or school staff with symptoms of coronavirus should book a test as normal via the [government website](#) or by calling 119.
- If you are unable to book a local testing slot then:
  - a. Individuals should complete the appropriate forms by following the links below:
    - Children under the age of 5: [Urgent Referral Form - Under 5's](#)
    - School aged Children (5-18): [School Aged Children](#)
    - NHS/Health/Care workers: [NHS/Health/Care Professionals](#)
    - All other individuals: [Urgent Referral Form - Adults](#)

### **COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection**

Please click on the link below to read Government advice on steps to be taken if a member of your household has coronavirus symptoms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Yours sincerely

Kevin Martin  
Headteacher

### **Key Dates**

<b>November</b>	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day 11.00am 2 minutes silence
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need – Non School Uniform donation of £1
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Whole School Flu Vaccinations
<b>December</b>	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Market Village Stall Crawl 3-5pm
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunches
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term
	MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR
<b>January</b>	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring term commences

Please note, these dates may be subject to change but we do try and give as much notice as possible.