



Head Teacher: Mrs. Ly Toom

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## **COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

### **Dear Parents and Carers**

This evening, we received the following message from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education:

*It is clear that education and children's social care settings are increasingly finding it difficult to continue as normal, as illness and self-isolation impacts on staffing levels and pupil attendance. To provide parents, students and staff with the certainty they need we are announcing that schools, colleges and early years settings will be closed to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday, as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus.*

*Examples of these workers include NHS staff, police and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans.*

*A full list of key worker categories will be published by the Cabinet Office tomorrow.*

*Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care.*

Please know that we were not informed of this decision ahead of it being announced today and we are still in a position of waiting for more information to help us to understand how school will run from Monday. As detailed above, we are expecting further guidance regarding the job roles defined as key workers tomorrow and we will share this with all parents as soon as we can.

In the meantime, can I ask that you please let us know of any recent changes to your mobile telephone number and/or email address and request that you look out for communications from school over the coming days, particularly as some may require a response.

For those children unable to attend school after this week, teachers will be providing guidance regarding learning at home – packs will be distributed to all children on Friday. Target sheets, that we usually share with parents at our spring term parents' evenings, will also be sent home with your child/children on Friday.

I am sure that you still have a great many questions and we will do our very best to answer them all in the days ahead but please be patient with us – we are experiencing a greater volume of phone calls and emails than usual!





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Throughout this week, we have done our best to keep up with an ever-evolving situation and I am so proud of the whole Abbey Road staff team, who have remained utterly committed to meeting the needs of our children... and doing so with a smile! As this extra-ordinary set of circumstances continues to unfold, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to do everything we can to support you and your children, whether they are at school or at home, for as long as necessary.

Many thanks again for your continued support.

Warmest regards

Ly Toom

