



Abbey Primary School

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Dear Parent/Guardian

We want to take this opportunity to give a short update on where things currently are in relation to how school may look in September.

Last week, you may have heard on the BBC news that a Covid 19 Education Planning group comprising of some school principals, members of Education Authority and other representatives have been looking at potential plans for re-opening schools in September. As this has been happening, lots of schools have been thinking through their ideas for re-opening. In many ways all of these ideas will become nothing more than ideas as the guidance given by the Department of Education (DE) will determine how and when each school will re-open.

The current suggested model for re-opening is half the school in on Monday and Tuesday, no pupils in school on Wednesday to enable deep cleaning and planning for remote learning, then the other half of the school in on Thursday and Friday. I know there have been wide ranging views by parents on how difficult such an arrangement would be in practical terms, however at this stage this is only a suggested model. In Abbey, our ideas were slightly different and we are not making firm arrangements in relation to opening times until a final plan is given to us by DE. There are a few things we do know now and we will start to make plans in relation to these areas.

It is highly likely that not all pupils will be in school at the same time unless the virus completely dies. With this in mind there will be two cohorts of children in school at different times. We are in the process of splitting the classes into two groups, trying to ensure that families are kept in the same group. We are also requisitioning proper amount of PPE and putting social distancing measures in place within the school. It is also likely that the equipment lists that are sent out to each class will include a wider range of supplies to ensure pupils only use their own equipment. More information will follow at a later date in relation to all of these.

We are also looking at how we may re-start Sparkles and Breakfast club in a safe and effective way.

We will endeavour to keep you fully informed when firm plans are in place.

If any of you need to contact the school please contact us via Facebook private message, class SEESAW or email info@abbeyprimary.newtownards.ni.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

J Manning