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Dear Parent

It has been a rollercoaster of emotions for all of us in the Abbey school community over the last few days waiting for The Executive to make a decision on schools and other areas of life.

Firstly, we are so annoyed about the fiasco that was the cancellation of The AQE yesterday morning and then its re-instatement at the end of the day. Our heart goes out to all of our P7 pupils, parents and staff, who had worked so hard to be ready for this Saturday and now have been told the test will be postponed until the end of February. We will endeavour to support all of our P7 pupils and parents throughout this difficult process.

In addition, the final decision made late last night by The Education Minister that Pre-school education settings, primary and post primary schools will be required to provide remote learning to pupils until the half term break in mid-February.

This means that remote learning will take place right up until 12th February. We want to make this process as manageable and productive as possible for all our children. We will use a mix of Seesaw, physical work packs and short information videos. The details of these for each year group will be shared via your child's class teacher on Seesaw. If you are having difficulty accessing Seesaw or you need a physical work pack to use at home, please contact the school and we will endeavour to help

We are operating supervised learning/child care for children of Key Workers and vulnerable children. Please allow me to emphasise that we want to ensure the minimum number of adults and pupils on the school site at any one time to reduce the transmission of the virus. We understand it is a difficult time for parents and carers operating the remote learning process. We also understand that when both parents are Key Workers and there is no other child care possibility and school is the only option, then please use the school supervised learning facility. However, due to the increasing numbers of children being signed up for this facility, the numbers of pupils in school are dramatically rising and we may need to introduce further criteria and a limit to the numbers on the school site to ensure the safety of our school community over the next 6 weeks. With this in mind, please only use the school supervised learning/child care facility as a last resort.

Let me emphasise that we would prefer our school to be open as normal and hope that we can do this as soon as it is deemed safe.

We look forward to seeing all of our children back in school after the February half term holidays.

Kind regards