

*"We are committed to inclusion and ensuring
no child or family is left behind."*



Abraham Moss Community School

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Tuesday, 4 December 2018

Dear Parents & Carers

The Christmas holiday is quickly approaching and I wanted to write to you to thank you for your continued support, in particular the feedback you have already shared with me regarding the proposal to close the school early for pupils each Friday from September 2019. If you have not shared your thoughts with me already, the letter outlining the proposal can be found on the homepage of the school website along with a feedback form you can use. Please ensure that your feedback is with the school no later than Friday, 14 December 2018 so I can collate the consensus of opinion amongst parents.

Attendance at the school has been outstanding this term and is currently 96%; this is due to the excellent partnership working that exists between school and home. The school could not achieve what it does without the full support of you as parents. I know that every parent wants the very best education for their child/children. With this in mind I would ask you to reinforce the following standards and expectations we have at Abraham Moss regarding what your child must do to be successful at school, and what you can do to ensure that they are.

1. Ensure your child attends school regularly and on time. Poor attendance is linked to poor progress and attainment. Parents who do not ensure their child/children attend school regularly receive fixed penalty notice fines and are eventually prosecuted in court if the attendance of their child/children does not improve.
2. Ensure your child has all the equipment necessary to be successful at school. This includes a well-stocked pencil case, their homework journal, and their full PE kit on the days they have PE, as well as a bag large enough to put books and equipment in. A 'handbag' or 'manbag' is not appropriate.
3. Remind yourself of your parental logon for 'Show My Homework', all parents have been given access to this so that they can check what homework has been issued. This will tell you which subject has had homework set, when the completion deadline is and resources to help your child complete their homework is also included on the site. Please check that homework is completed at home, as indicated by the word 'homework'. Failure to complete homework will result in a detention being issued for non-completion.
4. Show interest in what your child is learning at school no matter how busy you are as parents. If you do not show interest in what your child is doing at school your child may well think you do not value their education, and that schoolwork, progress and attainment is not important. Discussing school over a family meal in the evening, or when they arrive home from school are the ideal times to do this. Successful parents make time and chat with their children about what they are learning in school.

5. Monitor how much time your child/children spend online, whether this is a tablet, phone, computer or games console. You should also set parental locks on your Wi-Fi at home to prevent your child from accessing websites that are not age appropriate. Far too many children watch things online that parents are unaware of because they do not set restrictions to the home Wi-Fi. Please ensure you do all you can to protect your child/children from online grooming and abuse by regularly checking their online activity.
6. Stress the importance of self-respect and respect for others when you talk with your child/children at home. We live in a secular, democratic society where we all have the right to live in peace and harmony. No child has the right to abuse another person, whether that is another child or an adult. Acts of physical violence of any nature will not be tolerated by the school and will be reported to the police.
7. Support the school when sanctions are given to your child/children. Believe what we communicate to you if you are told that your child/children's behaviour falls short of the standard we expect. If we are united and work in partnership then your child's/children's behaviour will improve and they will be happier and more successful at school.

A good education begins at home. Parents cannot blame schools for not nurturing values in children that are not instilled at home. When you choose to send your child/children to Abraham Moss you choose the rules and standards set by the school. Pupils and parents do not choose which rules to follow, and which to ignore. Our standards and expectations are high, and we are unapologetic about setting high standards. Some pupil's behaviour falls short of what we expect, but we will always work with children to help them improve their behaviour and attitudes.

Once again I thank you all for your continued support. I wish you and your family the most peaceful Christmas and I hope the New Year brings you all happiness and prosperity.

Please note that **the Secondary Phase closes at 12:15pm on Friday, 14 December** and reopens to pupils on Monday, 7 January 2019. Secondary Phase pupils should be in school no later than 8:20am.

The Primary Phase closes at 12:30pm on Friday, 14 December and reopens to pupils on Monday, 7 January 2019. Primary Phase pupils should be in school no later than 8:55am.

Yours sincerely



Ms G. B. Houghton
Headteacher