



Dear Blue Jay Families and Caring Adults at Home,

We would all like to extend a hearty Happy New Year to you! We are also feeling incredibly grateful to you, as our school families, for your patience, and support, during what has been a really trying return to school this year.

We have had four days of closure for students this past week, and during this time, we were also, as a staff, unable to, physically, report to our school.

As you are aware we have been busy preparing for the restart of school on January 10th.

During this past week, the staff have also been preparing for the possibility of a temporary school closure if needed. This could include a single classroom, several classrooms at once, or even the entire school for a short period of time.

Our staff have reached out to you this week, via email, phone calls and/or virtually. Each Division will be sending a survey home by Monday which we really need you to complete. This survey will help us to know family needs should we have a Functional Closure of a classroom(s) or even our whole school. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about this survey.

In order for us to continue your child's education through remote learning, we need you to check in with your child's Seesaw or Google Classroom account. Please ensure that your child's teacher has your active email address. Remote learning will replace face-to-face instruction in the event of a school closure. You can find our staff's email addresses here:

<https://bluejay.abbyschools.ca/about/staff>

During this past week, we have been reviewing our health and safety routines for staff and students. Please continue your good work in helping us to stay open by doing the following:

- Office staff will be making repeated morning announcements with expected safety procedures
- Please ensure your child has a good fit mask, and remind them, daily, the importance of wearing it throughout the school day

- Your child MUST be healthy to attend school. Please go here for a checklist of symptoms which indicate your child should not attend school:
<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>
- If not please keep them home and use the School's SafeArrival App.
<https://www.abbyschools.ca/safe-arrival> to report an absence.
- Pick your child up immediately should our office call you because they are ill
- As parents, please do not gather by your child's classroom door and drop them off as quickly as possible. Do not gather with other adults to chat. Please stand away from other children and our line-ups.
- Students will enter the building in small groups, wash/sanitize their hands, and put their personal belongings away
- We are working to maximize space between children
- We continue to hold all assemblies and Staff Meetings virtually
- Extracurricular activities will not happen for the month of January, and possibly beyond. This includes Chess Club.
- All visitors to the building will be limited to those working with students directly on student learning. As a result, we will **NOT** be able to have the following groups in our school setting:
 - Parent volunteers, other than our fantastic Noon Hour Supervisors, and volunteers, who have been working steadily with us this past year
 - Engaging PAC 'in-school' activities and hot lunches, etc.
- Please ensure that your child comes to school with the following items daily, as we are limiting adults coming to and from our building (if you do need to connect, face-to-face, with a staff member, please email them and book an appointment for a face-to-face or virtual meeting):
 - Full water bottle
 - Healthy snack and lunch items
 - A change of clothes, including pants and socks (students will NOT be changing for gym at this time)
 - Warm clothing (toque, jacket, boots) for outside playtime

The school day will start and finish as normal on January 10th, and we expect all students, unless they are ill, to be in attendance.

Please continue to check in on our school website: <https://bluejay.abbyschools.ca/> for current information. Pay special attention to any emails from our District, our school, your child's classroom teacher.

For Your Information: Kindergarten registration starts January 31.

As we move through this new year, we want to wish you all the best. Stay healthy, and please consider having yourself/your children vaccinated as soon as you can!

Together, we can get through this.

With gratitude,

Ms. Kathy Fladager, Principal

Ms. Kam Sidhu, Vice Principal