



# Abbey Primary School Newsletter

December 2024

## **Right of the Month**

Article 29: The right to become the best you can be.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the year comes to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils, parents, staff, and governors for their unwavering support throughout what has been a highly successful and productive term.

We are truly fortunate to have such talented pupils and staff, and this was wonderfully evident over the past two weeks with the fantastic Christmas shows. These performances were a joy to watch and a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. Thank you all for your incredible efforts during this bustling season!

Thank you also to our wonderful PTA who have raised a huge amount of money through lots of different events throughout the year. All proceeds raised go back to the wonderful children of Abbey Primary.

### **Car Park and Parking**

Thank you to the parents/carers for ensuring the new car park/drop-off zone has been successful. It really has made a massive difference to our school. There are still a very few parents/carers who continue to park on **yellow lines** or drive the **wrong way around the new car park**, so can I please ask you to all abide by the school's rules and Traffic Management Policy.

### **Premises**

Over the past two weeks I have held in depth discussions with the local authority regarding the state of our playing field, as well as the fencing and drop near the staff car park. The local authority has agreed to put better fencing up to prevent children climbing and potentially falling from the gabion walls. This is an urgent matter, and I ask you all to keep a very close eye on your children whilst lining up at the start of the school day.

The local authority have also agreed to invest in the field and make good what is an awful situation. In addition to that, I met the [Cymru Football Foundation \(CFF\)](#) to discuss options for a 45m x 45m 3G facility adjacent to the car park. This is a very new idea, and discussions are at the very early stages. A lot will all depend on 'need' from the community. So, if you are involved with a football or rugby club, or any other sports club that require access to a 3G and can't get on at Neath Sports Centre or Llandarcy Academy of Sport, let me know.

### **Special Cruyff Court**

I have recently obtained around £60,000 in funding from the [Cruyff Foundation](#) to create a 'Special Cruyff Court' on foundation yard. Where the children currently play is unacceptable in my eyes and I am trying to get funding to match fund what the Cruyff Foundation have pledged. If any of you know businesses who will be keen to sponsor and support this application, please do let me know. We are talking of fundraising around £100,000, with a grant from the CFF to help support us.

The local authority has no money to contribute, so we will need to raise a lot of money ourselves and/or through grants.



Ben Davies, the Wales and Tottenham Hotspur defender, has agreed in principle to have the Special Cruyff Court named after him.

As a Neath boy, and a player I coached at Swansea City, Ben has kindly agreed to support the school as much as possible.

Below is a picture of a Cruyff Court. The impact for this could be huge for our school and the local community, so please do share with businesses to see if they are keen to sponsor or donate (any amount is gratefully received). Our Cruyff Court would not be this big, but it would still be a great addition to our school.



### Parental Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who has completed the online parental questionnaire. So far, we have received **91 responses**, so those of you who have not completed it yet, please do so using the link below. Diolch yn fawr.

<https://forms.office.com/e/fdwbCK7vNf>

### Staffing

I would like to wish Mrs. Williams and Miss. Richards (EYAC) the very best of luck as they leave us to start their maternity leave on the Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Mrs. Victoria Griffiths will be covering the nursery/reception class for Mrs. Williams for the spring term. Miss. Bowring, who will be returning from her Welsh Sabbatical after Easter, will be in the nursery/reception class for the summer term.

In relation to Miss. Richards' position, we will be appointing a new EYAC Lead Teacher in the early part of the spring term.

**Confirmed dates for your diary**

Date	Activity/Event
Friday 20th December	Final day of the Autumn Term (Nadolig Llawen)
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	INSET DAY
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Pupils return after the Christmas holidays
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	PC Lewis in to talk to Year 6 regarding social media
W/B 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 6 SWIMMING (Two-week block) – 1 <sup>st</sup> week Y6M & 2 <sup>nd</sup> week Y6T
W/B 20 <sup>th</sup> January	After-school clubs to start
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	INSET DAY
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb HALF TERM</b>	
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March (WELSH WEEK)</b>	<b>Pupils and Staff return from half term break</b>

Thank you for reading my final newsletter of 2024.

I wish you all a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year! May you enjoy this special time with your loved ones, and I look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday, 7th January 2025**.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. K. M. Hodder  
(Headteacher)

