



Abbey Primary School Newsletter

July 2024

Right of the Month
Article 31: The right to relax and play.

Friday 12th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write my final newsletter of the academic year, I can look back and reflect on a hugely successful first full year as Head Teacher of this brilliant school. Like all schools, we have had our challenges, but the success stories and achievements we have had far outweigh the challenges.

Like any head teacher, I am tasked with making some difficult decisions at times, but every decision is made with the children at the centre. Our main priority is to provide world-class education in a happy, safe and secure environment. We want to support our pupils to be the best version of themselves they can possibly be. We want our pupils to thrive, be resilient and ensure they are wonderful citizens of this community and the wider world.

I believe we provide excellent learning experiences and opportunities for our children and with your support, the support of our governing body and all connected to the school, we do deliver value for money and a positive working ethos and environment.

I have listened and acted on advice, guidance and support. As a school, we have assessed what pupils need and ensure we meet those needs. We want the very best for each and every pupil and will continue to drive up standards across the school.

Thank you for all of your support and by working together we can make a real difference to the life chances of our children. Diolch yn fawr!

PTA

Huge thank you to our PTA who have constantly raised funds and helped the school throughout the year. They recently organised a lovely Summer Serenade for free which pupils enjoyed. The amount of time and effort our PTA put in to support our children is incredible, so diolch yn fawr. It is greatly appreciated, and this level of commitment does not exist in every school. If anyone wants to join our PTA, please contact Mrs. Griffiths via the school office.

Pupil Leavers

It is the time of year where we lose our oldest pupils to comprehensive school, cherishing the memories, funny stories and amazing experiences we have had together. We had a fabulous Leavers' assembly on Tuesday 9th July, and it was lovely to see so many parents/carers and family members present. The Year 6 pupils have a number of activities, visits and events planned, and we all wish them well as they move on to the next chapter in their lives. Pob lwc bawb!

Leavers' Disco/Party - a huge thank you to Arbourne's, Skewen, who kindly donated 50 burgers, ASDA Llansamlet who donated buns, condiments and squash, as well Cole's Butcher's, Neath Market (Miss Bowring's partner) who has kindly donated 100 sausages for the Leavers' party!

Staff Leavers

It is that time of year where staffing changes do naturally occur. We are sorry to see three valuable members of staff leave for various reasons.

Mrs. Trudie Nichols, who has been a valued member of the team is retiring. We wish her a long and happy retirement, and despite coming into education late, she has thrived and wishes she had done it sooner. Enjoy retirement, Trudie, you fully deserve it.

Miss. Georgia Harris is leaving to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher, having worked in our Early Years Assessment Centre for the past 14 months. Georgia will be missed, but hopefully our paths will cross again in a teaching capacity in the near future. Good luck, Georgia and thank you for everything you have done to support our most vulnerable pupils.

Mrs. Karen Morris – Mrs. Morris has been bursar here at Abbey for many many years, supporting the school diligently alongside Mrs. Newman and now myself. She was integral in supporting the school move to this fabulous new build and has provided expert advice on all aspects linked to premises, health and safety and finance.

Mrs. Morris will be sorely missed, but her role within the authority as Lead Bursar has become too vast, with nearly all schools requiring support of a bursar. Her time here was being stretched with the Lead Bursar role, so she will now be full-time Lead Bursar support and we will be having a new bursar to support us from September. Thank you for all you have done, Karen...it has been greatly appreciated indeed.

Parents'/Carers' Meeting (Book Look)

I really hope you found this event beneficial and have enjoyed the earlier mid-year report and longer period with the class teacher in the summer term. I have received a lot of positive feedback, and this is definitely something we will continue to embed as we move forward.

Premises

Car Park – This is continuing to develop at a good pace and the progress meeting we have had was positive.

From September, we will be moving the main 'in' barrier closer to the drop off zone, currently on the right as you approach the main school building. This is being done due to a number of parents continuing to block barriers and to avoid congestion near the three barriers currently.

Once the car park is completed, there will be ample spaces for families to drop off and bring their children to school safely. There will be a major clampdown on persistent offenders, who are putting the lives of children at risk by parking inconsiderately. **Therefore, during September, I would urge you to walk to school or park in an appropriate way until the car park is completed.**

Transition

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils had successful transition days last week, and the whole school transition went smoothly too on Wednesday 3rd July. We are looking forward to welcoming old and new pupils to our classrooms in September.

INSET Day

We have an INSET Day planned for **Monday 2nd September** and will be welcoming the pupils back to school on Tuesday 3rd September.

Confirmed dates for your diary

Date	Activity/Event
Monday 15 th July	YEAR 6 LEAVERS' TRIP to LC2 & DENNY'S
Monday 15 th July	RECEPTION TRIP TO FOLLY FARM
Tuesday 16 th July	YEAR 1, 2 & 3 TRIP TO FOLLY FARM
Tuesday 16 th July	RECEPTION CLASS ASSEMBLY 1:45PM
Wednesday 17 th July	NURSERY GRADUATION @ 10am (Parents/Carers to attend)
Friday 19 th July	END OF ACADEMIC YEAR!
SUMMER HOLIDAYS MON 22 ND JULY TO SUNDAY 1 ST SEPTEMBER	
Monday 2 nd September	INSET Day
Tuesday 3 rd September	Pupils start back after the summer holidays

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter and I wish you all a wonderful summer break and look forward to welcoming you all back to school in September.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. K. M. Hodder
(Headteacher)