



# Abbey Primary School Newsletter

November 2023

## **Right of the Month**

*Article 19: The right to be looked after and kept safe.*

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Christmas season is nearly upon us, and the festivities are always a special moment in any school calendar. We are really excited about the Christmas shows that will take place in December, with 8 shows in total. Tickets can be bought (£2.50 per ticket) in school using cash or online via [ParentPay](#). We are able to allocate two tickets per pupil for each performance. During the performances we will be selling raffle tickets (£1 each) and during the evening the evening performances we will be selling refreshments (teas, coffees, mince pies and mulled wine).

The dates for the shows are as follows:

Concerts	Afternoon (2pm)	Evening (5pm)
N/R	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
Y1/2	19 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>
Y3/4	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
Y5/6	12 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>

We are also fully aware that Christmas can be a difficult time of year for some people, and I want all of you to know that we as a school are here to support you in every way possible. Please do reach out if you need support.

On that note, I would like to thank Miss. Tyler who organised the '[Shoebbox Appeal](#)' where staff members made up around 20 shoeboxes as gifts for those pupils who are less fortunate. A very kind gesture and a huge thank you to all staff who donated and created the lovely gifts for the appeal. If you as parents want to join in, you can find more information [here](#).

## **Staffing**

From today (Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.), Mr. J. Richards will be going into hospital for an operation which means he will be absent from school for six weeks in the first instance, with a recovery period lasting a possible 3 months. We wish him the very best of luck and we hope he makes a speedy recovery. We will support Mr. Richards in his recovery and will miss him. Year 5R will have Mr. Steve Thomas to cover the class. Mr. Thomas is an experienced teacher and former senior leader of a school in Llanelli. He has met Mr. Richards to discuss planning and the class and he will be a great addition in Mr. Richards' absence.

Mrs. D. Thomas will be going on maternity leave after Christmas, and we wish her the very best with the birth of her second child. We will miss Mrs. Thomas greatly, as she is a valuable member of our Abbey family and no doubt, we will all be very excited for a little cuddle when the little one arrives. Year 3T will be having Miss. Lois Evans for the remainder of the academic year. Miss. Evans comes

with a glowing reference, and we look forward to having her on our team. Miss. Evans has also been doing some supply work for us to ease the transition for her and the pupils.

### **Punctuality & Attendance**

The local authority has launched 'The 'Miss School, Miss Out' campaign which aims to raise awareness about the benefits of school attendance, provide information on how families can prevent absences and highlight the available support for parents. Please read the press release [here](#).

### **Attendance is a priority for the school this year and is included in our School Improvement Plan.**

Punctuality and attendance will also be monitored closely and persistent offenders will be discussed with our **Education Welfare Officer, Tiona Richards**. All medical appointments must be made after school or during the school holidays. Hospital appointments cannot be changed (I understand that), but appointment letters will need to be provided.

### **Car Park and Parking**

We have been chasing the local authority for answers regarding the car park and I am pleased to announce it has been granted planning permission.

There are a few pre-construction conditions that have been put in place which the Planning Officer is working his way through. However, these are nothing to be concerned about just formalities really regarding Ecology, Traffic Management and the Environment. As soon as these are completed, we will hopefully get a start date as I am deeply concerned about the traffic around the school site, parking and the potential of an accident happening.

Please can I remind you all to:

- Park in designated parking bays. Please do not park on grass verges, or pavements.
- Avoid blocking/parking in front of barriers.
- Ensure you walk around the school site using the footpaths and not through the traffic.
- Drive extremely slowly in and around the school.

### **Field and Paths**

As you are aware, the path from the field is extremely wet and with the cold weather due in this week and through the winter months, this path will become extremely hazardous. I have been in constant dialogue regarding this with Bam (Constructors of the school) and the local authority. We have put this work out to tender and I am hopeful of it starting in the near future.

The field itself has grass on it (and a few ponds), but when a dry spell of weather comes in it is due to be rolled and cut. I am also hoping the path next to the field will be completed the same time as the drainage to stop the flow of water down into the car park.

### **After-School Clubs**

A polite reminder that there will be **no** after-school clubs after this week now until the new term. The clubs may or may not change depending on staff discussion. I hope you and the pupils appreciate the hard work the staff have put in with clubs, with a wide variety offered across the school from all staff members. It is an important aspect of school-life and one that has been well-received with positive numbers attending.

### Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who came to our Scholastic Book Fair last week and thank to the staff who volunteered to support the event. It was hugely successful with **£1,000** worth of books bought by you as families, which has allowed school to purchase books worth **£450 for free**. Diolch yn fawr!

### Christmas Party

There will be a Christmas party during the last week of December (Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec) and Father Christmas will be making a surprise visit. Selection boxes will be provided by the PTA for this visit and all pupils will receive one. Huge thanks goes to our supportive PTA for providing the selection boxes.

Local Authority Catering Services will be providing a 'McDonald's' style lunch – chicken nuggets and chips, with an ice cream for dessert. Pupils can wear Christmas party clothes and then they will play games and do Christmas activities in the afternoon.

### Confirmed dates for your diary

Date	Activity/Event
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concerts (see table above)
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concerts (see table above)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day (Christmas jumpers to be worn)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concerts (see table above)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concerts (see table above)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY (Christmas party clothes can be worn)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Last day for pupils – Have a wonderful Christmas and festive period
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	INSET DAY
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> <b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	INSET DAY
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Pupils return after the Christmas holidays
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Local Authority Safeguarding Audit

Yours faithfully,



Mr. K. M. Hodder  
(Headteacher)