



# Abbey Primary School Newsletter

## October 2024 Hydref

### **Right of the Month**

*Article 14: The right to good food and water and to see a doctor if they are ill.*

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to my October newsletter. I hope you find the contents useful and informative.

### **Thank you**

I would like to say a huge thank you to Miss. Carys Hughes who leaves us this week to take up a similar position in a school more local to her.

She leaves us after six years of service and her experience will be greatly missed. She has worked in the Early Years Assessment Centre for the majority of that time, and she has been a valuable member of that team, as well as the whole school.

I would like to thank her for the difference she has made to so many pupils and wish her all the very best in her new role!

### **Punctuality & Attendance**

We have made a good start with our attendance this year, and I can now confirm that our governors have confirmed our new target for the year is **93.5%**. This is very achievable, but we must all pull together to ensure we are improving month on month.

Attendance is monitored on a fortnightly basis with our Education Welfare Officer, Tiona Edwards. For further information, please visit the [Council's website regarding attendance](#).

### **Premises**

#### Car Park/Drop-off Zone

I am pleased to say that the new car park/drop-off zone is nearly complete. It will be completed and operational from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**. Please be reminded that there will now be additional double-yellow lines, and the camera car will be around to ensure parents/carers are using the drop-off zone and car park correctly.

The **barrier** is now the only concern we have remaining. The 'in' barrier for the school staff car park needs to be moved so that children and parents can safely cross from the new drop-off zone/car park to the footpath. This barrier will be moved within the next 6 weeks, so in the meantime, a temporary barrier will be in place.

The main gates will be open as usual, with a temporary barrier placed just before the current three barriers. **NO ACCESS** past the barrier will occur between **8:30am and 9am or 3pm to 3:30pm**.

**THE SAFETY OF ALL PEDESTRIANS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT AND I URGE YOU ALL TO RESPECT THE RULES, PARK SENSIBLY IN LINE WITH THE LAW AND TO USE OUR BRAND-NEW CAR PARK/DROP-OFF ZONE!**

Failure to comply with the new rules will result in the MAIN GATES being locked between the above times. That way, everyone must use the new car park/drop-off zone, and I have met the local authority this morning and they are in full agreement with this.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD PARENTS PARK IN FRONT OF THE BARRIERS.**

**Complaints** – I have received a number of complaints over the course of the past 12 months regarding parents/carers being abusive towards residents, parking inconsiderately and also being aggressive, all with children near by or in their presence.

Please can I politely remind all parents/carers to be respectful to our community members and ensure we live and work in harmony. I appreciate the difficulty parking, but we are very fortunate to have this new car park/drop-off zone, and I sincerely hope this alleviates the pressure in the surrounding area.

I am also aware of residents being rude to parents/carers and children...so hopefully, this new facility eases all the stress of parking! If you are every verbally abused by residents, please report it to the police.

**New website**

I am delighted to announce our brand-new website! The website address is [abbeyprimaryschool.com](http://abbeyprimaryschool.com) and I hope you like it. We will be updating the website regularly and there are pages we are in the process of developing...using the children's skills and expertise too, but I hope you agree it looks modern, sleek and professional.

**Parents' Consultations**

I hope you found the parental consultations a valuable and worthwhile experience last week. I know the turn out was very positive and we will be providing mid-year reports for parents/carers again this spring term. In the summer term, we will be offering another 30-minute session where parents/carers can view your child's work and discuss progress with the class teacher.

I am always keen to seek the views and opinions of parents and carers. Since my arrival, several systems and processes have changed, plus, after to listening to feedback from all stakeholders, we have made numerous other changes across the school...so please complete the following [parental/carer survey](#).

**After-School Clubs (Autumn Term)**

After-school clubs will resume **W/B 4<sup>th</sup> November**, and they will end **W/E 29<sup>th</sup> November**. There will be no after-school clubs throughout December due to Christmas celebrations.

**Harvest**

Thank you to everyone who has donated some food for our Harvest collection. Today our Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl delivered the donations to our local food bank in Orchard Place. If anyone needs support, please call them on [07534256508](tel:07534256508)

Visit their website [here](#).





### Neath Foodbank Donation

#### INSET Days

I have booked in a number of new INSET Days for the forthcoming year.

These are as follows:

- Monday 6th January 2025
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025
- Monday 28th April 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025

#### Confirmed dates for your diary

Date	Activity/Event
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	END OF HALF TERM
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Pupils and staff return to school
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Influenza nasal spray immunisation (Rec to Year 6)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Quiz and Bingo Night at Skewen RFC (PTA)
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Trip to the Jamboree (Ysgol Bro Dur)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Dental Survey with Year 1 pupils
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 trip to Techniquest
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Cluster Netball Tournament
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	<u>CHILDREN IN NEED</u>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Cluster Football Tournament (Y5/6)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	URDD Y5/6 Netball Festival
W/B 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas concert week. Timetable of events to follow.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	CHRISTMAS JUMPER & DINNER DAY
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 to visit Santa in Margam
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET DAY for staff training
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Pupils return to school after the Christmas holiday

I hope you all have a wonderful half term holiday and please stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Hodder', written in a cursive style.

Mr. K. M. Hodder  
(Pennaeth/Headteacher)