



Abbey Primary School Newsletter

September 2024

Right of the Month
Article 28: Right to an Education

Monday 16th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year and I sincerely hope you have all had a wonderful summer break, despite the miserable weather at times!

It has been lovely seeing so many of you at school and the staff were delighted to welcome back all our pupils. It has been a pleasure seeing their happy faces coming to school and I am pleased at how well they have settled back into school life.

After my first full year here at Abbey, a year which I feel was hugely successful, we now look at reflecting on the year and focussing on continuing to improve and grow as a school community. You are vital with that, and we greatly value your opinions and ideas.

I would like to thank all staff, governors, pupils and parents for the support shown to me last year and I envisage another successful year in the offing.

Staff Changes

It has been lovely to welcome new members of staff to the school and we have Miss. Masters and Mrs. Hopkins joining our nursery team, as well as Miss. Boxer joining our EYAC team.

Miss. Richards (EYAC) and Mrs. Williams (Nursery) have both announced their pregnancies and we are thrilled for both sets of families with their lovely news. Llongyfarchiadau!!

Both Miss. Richards and Mrs. Williams will be going on maternity leave in the spring term, and I will inform each class in due course who will be covering their maternity leave.

ClassDojo

This extremely effective tool has been used very effectively for the past year and I hope you agree communication has improved. Just a reminder about the protocols of using ClassDojo, ensuring that important and urgent messages are still phoned through, as ClassDojo may not always be seen.

Staff won't always respond to messages after working hours, although there may be the exceptional circumstances. Staff will also not post after working hours, again, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Absences need to be reported via the school office, using the voicemail service, please. Diolch yn fawr.

PTA

The PTA have kindly offered to pay for water bottles for the children again this year. Thank you for your wonderful support. With water bottles provided, can pupils refrain from bringing in their own water bottles, particularly the large XL ones, as there is limited storage space.

Mrs. Griffiths will be sending a separate PTA newsletter soon outlining their fundraising plans.

Punctuality & Attendance

That leads me on to attendance and punctuality. I will be monitoring pupils' attendance closely this term as it has been identified as a priority for the school again this year, despite an improvement in attendance during the last academic year.

Our target for the year was **93%**, which was much greater than the previous year of 90.87%. We actually hit 92.22%, so a **1.33% increase**. If we maintain this improvement, we will be looking at 93.55%, so hopefully we will hit 93.5%. The attendance target will be approved by governors during the AGM meeting.

We have made a great start to this term, with us being the best school in the cluster, but we cannot afford to let standards slip. I understand there will be genuine illness and hospital appointments to attend, but if we can ensure holidays, routine appointments like the dentist etc. are made outside of school hours, it will all help the pupils to progress. It is imperative that pupils do not miss any more school than is absolutely necessary. ***Please ensure evidence of appointments are provided to the school office.***

Punctuality will also be monitored closely, and persistent offenders will be discussed with our **Education Welfare Officer, Tiona Richards**.

School Uniform & P.E. Kits

It is very important that pupils wear the agreed school uniform during the school day. Our uniform can be purchased from Macron [here](#).

On P.E. days, pupils can wear P.E. kit which should consist of a t-shirt (Sports Day t-shirts can be worn) plus black shorts and socks. Trainers must be worn, and any pupils in inappropriate footwear will not be able to take part.

P.E. is an important aspect of school life, and it is vital pupils participate to stay fit and healthy, as well as socialising and working on integral skills such as problem solving and teamwork.

Premises

Car Park/Drop-off Zone

I had a meeting with the local authority and contractors on Wednesday 11th September. We are pleased with the progress, and I am sure you can see it all coming together. We had a few discussions around the boundary fence, which needs adjusting for health and safety reasons. This will mean a completion date of the first week of October. We want to ensure the car park is fit-for-purpose and is safe, so it is better to make alterations now.

Once the car park is completed, there will be new double-yellow lines in place. **I need to stress at this point that the local authority have mentioned during our meetings that the patrol car will be sent around taking photographs of cars parked illegally.** We don't know when this will happen and it is NOT a school decision; however, the council obviously want to see the new 'drop-off zone' used effectively, justifying the cost of the build.

Termly Newsletter

You will be receiving a termly newsletter off your child's class teacher on Friday 20th September. This will allow you to know what the concept is for the term, as well as reminders regarding PE kit etc.

Snack/Fruit

From next week, we will be selling fruit and snack in school. Parents/Carers in Foundation Phase (Nursery – Year 2) can pay a half termly fee of £5. This must be paid through ParentPay if you want your child to receive snack.

Pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 can bring in a small amount of money per day to purchase some fruit. Each piece of fruit will be priced at 30p. This will be sold by 'Fruit Monitors' during break time.

Bikes and Scooters

Bikes and scooters are NOT permitted to be ridden on school grounds. If bikes are brought on the premises, please ensure children walk them to the bike shelter. We want to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle, but with some younger pupils walking around the school, I do not want an accident.

Annual Consent Forms

We will be collecting our annual consent form information online again this year and form can be found by clicking this [link](#). We have chosen to go paper-free and help improve the environment. We all have to do everything we can to save paper, reduce waste and support the government in tackling the climate crisis.

So far, we have received 282 responses after the Class Dojo message, but we need a form completed for each pupil at the school, please.

Parents' Consultations

We have arranged Parental Consultations for **W/B 14th October**. Further information will follow, but please can all parents ensure they attend these important meetings where you get to meet your child's teacher. The meetings will take place in person.

After-School Clubs (Autumn Term)

Yet again, we are offering a wide variety of clubs for pupils this term. These are all free clubs run by staff members (except Cooking which has a small fee to purchase ingredients). I would like to thank all staff for offering these extra-curricular opportunities.

Day	Club	Year Group	Finish Time	Teacher	Location
Monday	Girls Football	4-6	4:00pm	Miss. Jones	Muga/Hall
Tuesday	Lego	Rec – Y2	4.00pm	Mrs. Jones	Rec Class
	Bootcamp Fitness	Yr2-6	4.00pm	Mrs. Griffiths & Mr. Davies	Studio / Hall
	iPad Club	Rec-Y2	4:00pm	Mrs. J. Williams	TBC
	Chess/Draughts	Yr 3-6	4:00pm	Mr. Richards	Y5 Classroom
	Lego	Yr 3 – 6	4:00pm	Miss. Dew	Y5 LD
	Coding Club	Yr 4 – 6	4:15pm	Mr. Mellin	Y6 CM
Wednesday	Football	Y5-6	4.15pm	Mr. Hodder	MUGA
	Film club	Y3-6	4:00pm	Miss. Evans	Y3 Class

	Just Dance	Rec – Y2	4.00pm	Mrs. S. Williams	Hall
	Board Games	Y1-Y3	4:00pm	Mrs. Ryan	Y2 class
Thursday	Choir	Y2-6	4:00pm	Mrs Richards (Y3)	Y3 Class
	Netball	Y3-6	4.00pm	Mrs. Thomas	MUGA
	Draw along	Y2-Y6	4:00pm	Miss. Richards EYAC	TBC
	Indoor Sports/games	Y3-6	4.00pm	Mr. Fitchett	Hall
	Cooking	Y3-6	4.00pm	Miss. Jarvis & Mrs. Richards	Cwtch

INSET Day

I have booked in a number of new INSET Days for the forthcoming year. These are as follows:

- Monday 6th January 2025
- Monday 28th April 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025

New Website

I am delighted to announce a brand-new website which has been created by FSE Design who specialise in school websites. We are thrilled by the new fresh and vibrant look and feel, and I hope you like it too. The new address is: abbeyprimaryschool.com which is a lot easier than the previous website address and it will be launched by the end of the month.

Harvest

Like last year, we will be collecting donations for a local church/food bank. Please can pupils bring in tins, packets and dried pasta and food for our Harvest collection. Once we have collected the donations, we will ensure they go to a worthwhile cause. Diolch.

Confirmed dates for your diary

Date	Activity/Event
Thursday 19 th September	Road Safety workshops (Rec to Year 2)
Friday 20 th September	Road Safety workshops (Year 3 to 6)
W/B 23 rd September	AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS start
Monday 23 rd September	Year 6 Transition Meeting with the Head Teacher of Dwr-Y-Felin (In Abbey Primary School Studio @ 3:30pm)
Tuesday 24 th September	SCHOOL PHOTOS (Colorfoto)
Monday 30 th September	BABY MASSAGE GROUP with Miss. Jarvis (am)
Monday 30 th September	Science Workshop for Parents with Family Learning & Miss. Jarvis (pm)
Tuesday 1 st October	EYAC Coffee Morning (9:30am – 11am)
Monday 7 th October	Science Workshop for Parents with Family Learning & Miss. Jarvis (pm)
W/B 14 th October	PARENTAL CONSULTATION WEEK (No after-school clubs this week or the week after)
Monday 14 th October	Harvest Whole School Service

Monday 14 th October	BABY MASSAGE GROUP with Miss. Jarvis (am)
Monday 14 th October	Science Workshop for Parents with Family Learning & Miss. Jarvis (pm)
Friday 18 th October	Wear Red Day 2024 Show Racism The Red Card (Non-uniform Day)
Monday 14 th October	BABY MASSAGE GROUP with Miss. Jarvis (am)
Monday 14 th October	Science Workshop for Parents with Family Learning & Miss. Jarvis (pm)
Friday 25 th October	END OF HALF TERM
Mon 28 th Oct – Fri 1 st Nov	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 4 th November	Pupils and staff return to school
Friday 15 th November	CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful sunshine and have a good rest of the week.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. K. M. Hodder
(Headteacher)