



Abbey Road News

September 2025

Abbey Road Primary School, Tewkesbury Close, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5ND

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome Back!

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school and to get to know lots of new children too – including all of our new starters in Acorns and Conkers, as well as the children who have joined other classes across the school. Thanks to the recent sunshine and dry weather, we've been able to spend plenty of time outside, making the most of our field space. School already feels calm, busy and purposeful – a great start to the new school year.

We had been looking forward to launching Opal Play with the children this month. Unfortunately, our mentor has been unable to carry out the initial audit and action planning due to a family emergency. This means our start has been delayed, but we will keep you updated and are excited to get things moving as soon as possible.

For our new families, a quick note about these newsletters: I send one out each month to share news of what's been happening in school; to keep you informed about upcoming events and to share important announcements and reminders. The final page always includes a calendar of dates; you can also find an up-to-date events calendar on our school website.

Bikeathon Success!

We are delighted to share the fantastic total from our 24-hour Bikeathon held last term – together we raised an incredible £3,446! Half of this amount (£1,723) has been donated to *Young Minds*, a charity that supports children and young people with their mental health, and the remaining funds will go towards our own school projects. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, supported, or donated – it was a real team effort and a lot of hard work. You can see our Bike Club proudly showing off the cheque to Young Minds in the photo.



Football Teams Kick Off the Season

Both our girls' and boys' football teams have already been in action this term, taking part in their first tournaments of the year – and even giving up a Saturday morning to represent the school! We were really proud of the great attitude and sportsmanship shown by all of the players.

Our girls' team were unbeaten throughout their matches and only just missed out on qualifying for the final round, while the boys' team also celebrated a couple of well-deserved wins. League fixtures are up next, and we look forward to following both teams' progress as the season continues.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Last Friday's Macmillan Coffee Morning was incredibly well supported – thank you so much to everyone who donated cakes, money, or simply came along to join us. The hall was busy from start to finish, with plenty of people enjoying cake for breakfast and catching up over a cuppa. Thanks to your generosity, we raised just under £350 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

We want to make sure as many eligible pupils as possible are claiming their free school meals. Not only does this enable your child to receive free school meals and milk, it also means that school receives additional money (Pupil Premium funding) which is used to support children's learning and can also support families in meeting the cost of activities such as music lessons, school trips and residential visits.

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the qualifying benefits below:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earning from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- [Income Support](#)
- [Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance \(JSA\)](#)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- [Child Tax Credit](#) (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on (paid for the four weeks after the person stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

To find out if you are eligible, please visit: [Free school meals and milk | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

To apply, parents simply need to register and provide:

- National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Service Reference Number
- Last name
- Date of birth

Accessibility Arrangements

We are keen to make sure that our school is accessible to everyone in our community. Our Accessibility Policy sets out how we support children and adults who may have disabilities or require alternative access arrangements, whether this is on a long-term basis or just for a shorter period of time. Part of this policy includes an action plan, which we review each year to check how well we are meeting needs and where we can improve.

If you, or a member of your family, have any accessibility needs that we may not be aware of, please do get in touch so that we can look at how best to support you.

Attendance

We are committed to ensuring that every child attends school regularly, as we know how vital good attendance is for children's learning and development.

Any requests for a leave of absence during term time must be submitted using the school's digital form.

You can do this quickly using the link or QR code below. <https://forms.office.com/e/836W8Kfg3B>

Please note that, in line with statutory government guidance, we cannot authorise leave for family holidays.



Where a request is for five days or more, we are required to submit this to the local authority for a potential penalty notice.

We aim to apply these rules consistently and fairly. In some cases, if we have concerns - for example, if a child's absence appears to be part of a holiday - we may carry out a home visit or ask for evidence of travel dates. Our goal is simply to ensure that we are following government guidance while supporting all families fairly.

Safety Reminders

Our school paths can get very busy at drop-off and pick-up, with many families arriving at the same time. Some family members collecting children may be elderly or have disabilities, so it's important that we keep these areas safe. Children cycling or scooting at speed can cause accidents, and to help prevent this, we ask that children either walk with their bikes and scooters, or if they are riding, stay slowly and carefully right next to their adult. This helps make sure everyone can move safely around the site. Staff do give reminders outside, but we can't be everywhere at once, so we really appreciate your support with this.

We have also reminded children not to use the play equipment or bike track before or after school. While we know some parents and carers supervise closely, it's very difficult for staff to oversee this when teachers are in classrooms or busy handing children over. Our outdoor clubs also need the playground clear so they can get started on time.

We'd be grateful if you could help us by keeping the playground equipment and track just for use during the school day or at clubs. This helps us keep the space safe and organised for everyone. Thank you for your support.

School Uniform

Children are looking very smart this term, but we have already started to notice a few different colours and logos appearing, especially on PE days. Please can we remind families that we do have a PE uniform, and it is important that children follow this on the days they have PE:

- White t-shirt or polo shirt (or navy 'Abbey Road' t-shirt)
- Navy or black shorts, joggers, or leggings
- Plimsolls or trainers
- Plain navy sweatshirt or hoodie

Jewellery should not be worn for safety reasons, except for plain stud earrings, wrist watches, or items of faith. Smart watches are not allowed, in line with our Mobile Phone and Device Policy. Nail varnish, make-up, and body art (including temporary tattoos) should not be worn - although we do make exceptions on the day after a school disco!

If you need support with uniform at any point in the year, please get in touch. We always have second-hand items available that we are happy to donate.

Finally, please can you **write or iron your child's name into all uniform, coats and PE kit**. We started the year with empty lost property trunks, but we are already finding brand new jumpers and cardigans with no names, which makes it almost impossible to return them to their owners.

Harvest Donations

On Monday 6th October, we will be sharing a harvest message with the children in assembly, helping them to understand how important it is to appreciate all we have and to never take the food we are given for granted. As part of this message, we would like to make a donation to the Friary Drop-in Centre on Musters Road, who we know would be extremely grateful for any contributions. The centre volunteers work so hard to prepare food parcels and meals for those in need. Children can bring non-perishable items of food to school anytime this week, or in the morning of **Monday 6th October**. These should be taken to classrooms and teachers will arrange for any donations to be brought together, ready for collection by Friary staff on Monday afternoon. Non-perishable items such as cans and packets of food are ideal as they can be stored for a long time, but the centre will also gladly accept fresh produce too.

A Reminder About Nuts

Please can we remind all families not to send children into school with whole nuts or products containing nuts. We have a number of children and staff with severe allergies, and we want to do everything we can to reduce the risk of a reaction.

While we can't describe ourselves as a completely "nut-free school" – as we are not able to check every lunchbox or bag each day – we do politely ask for your support in avoiding nut products wherever possible. This small step makes a big difference in helping us to keep everyone safe.

Parent Survey 2025

Thank you to everyone who took part in our summer term parent survey – we received **89 responses**. We were delighted to read so many positive comments, highlighting how much families value the care, support, and learning opportunities at Abbey Road. Your feedback really helps us to celebrate what is going well and to build on our successes.

Alongside the positive comments, some parents shared suggestions for ways we could further enhance school life. We take all feedback seriously and have already incorporated a number of these ideas into our school development plans.

We will also be communicating with parents soon about our communications, to seek further feedback on how we can share information in the most helpful way.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your views. Your input is invaluable in helping us continue to improve and provide the best possible experience for all our children.

A summary of the survey responses is attached with this newsletter.

Dates for the Term Ahead

 - Many more events will be added during the weeks ahead!

Tuesday 14 th and Thursday 16 th October	Parents Evening (booking instructions will be shared later this week)
Friday 17 th October	Y6 visit to Abbey Circus air raid shelter (World War II themed day)
Monday 20 th October to Friday 31 st October	Half term
Thursday 6 th November	HSA Disco 6.15-7.15 - Reception & KS1 7.30-8.30 – KS2
26 th – 28 th November	Castleton residential – Year 4
w/b Monday 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 8 th December	Year 5 visit to National Space Centre
Friday 5 th December	HSA Christmas Fair (after school)
<i>Dates for these performances will be shared separately later this week.</i>	Reception Nativity
	Year 1 Nativity
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 18 th December	Pantomime - Years 2–6 (in school)
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term
Monday 5 th January 2026	Back to school
Friday 9 th January 2026	Young Voices (Glee Club members)

Best wishes, Ly Toom