



Abbey Road News

October/November 2025

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

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Dear Parents/Carers

It is my intention to share a newsletter with parents each month, but I didn't quite manage to get one out before half term — apologies! This is therefore an October/November update, with a few extra dates added on page 4.

There'll be plenty more to share in the coming weeks, as this half term is always a busy one, full of exciting events and activities. It also marks the start of the countdown to Christmas — always a magical time in primary school!

Free Online Chess Webinars for Children

Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) is offering a series of free online chess webinars from 18th November to 11th December. The sessions are aimed at children in Years 4–6, though everyone is welcome to join.

There are three levels to choose from: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Beginners only need to know the basic rules. Each level is repeated twice a week for convenience. Children will also be able to practice on ChessKid, a safe learning platform for primary-aged players.

At the end of the series, some children may be invited to ten online masterclasses starting January 2026, based on webinar attendance and completion of weekly ChessKid tasks.

Parents can register their child by clicking [this link](#).

Year 6 Visit the Abbey Circus Air Raid Shelter

Our Year 6 pupils recently enjoyed a fascinating day of learning about World War II, part of which took place at school and part at the newly restored Abbey Circus Air Raid Shelter.

The children took part in hands-on activities, including dressing up and exploring real artefacts from the wartime period, bringing history to life in a fun and engaging way. They also visited the shelter itself, seeing the historic space firsthand and experiencing what it would have been like to take shelter during an air raid.



The Abbey Circus shelter had been closed and forgotten for decades, but thanks to a two-year partnership between Nottingham Trent University and Rushcliffe Borough Council, it has now been fully restored, creating a wonderful local resource for schools and the community.

Inside the shelter, the children saw original features and learned more about how and when the shelter was used. The site now includes restored wooden benches, educational displays, and a short film to capture the atmosphere of the time.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Jason King and Chris Reynolds for leading our Year 6 visit and for their dedication in restoring and preserving this incredible part of our local history. We're so lucky to have such a unique and meaningful learning opportunity right on our doorstep.

Welcome Back, Mrs Lever!

We are really pleased to welcome Mrs Lever back to school following her maternity leave. She has been busy spending time in classes, getting to know new children and catching up with those who already know her.

Mrs Lever will be teaching Chestnut class on Mondays and will also be working in Reception every Friday. We're delighted to have her back as part of the team!



Parking Safely Around School

We've recently received some concerns about inconsiderate parking and unsafe driving during school drop-off and pick-up times. In one case, a small child was nearly hit when a car mounted the pavement in a hurry, and a local resident has reported their driveway being blocked on several occasions.

If you need to drive to school, please help us to keep the area around school safe and accessible for everyone by driving and parking with care and consideration. Where possible, try to only drive if necessary, or park a little further away where there's more space and walk the rest of the way — even small changes can make a big difference to the safety of our children and neighbours. Our local Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are aware of the concerns and are often in the area to help keep things safe around school. Parents and local residents can also request extra visits from the council's CCTV enforcement vehicle by completing the online form [CCTV vehicle enforcement | Nottinghamshire County Council](#).

Please also share this reminder with anyone who helps with drop-offs and pick-ups, such as grandparents, childminders or family friends. Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our school community and local area safe.

Harvest Donations – Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Appeal this year. The generous donations from families made for an impressive display at our harvest assembly and served as a wonderful reminder of the kindness within our school community.

After the assembly, a group of enthusiastic Year 5 volunteers helped to bag up all the items ready for collection by the Friary Drop-In Centre. They were incredibly grateful for your support, and your donations will make a real difference to the valuable work they do to help vulnerable people in our local community.



Applying for a School Place for September 2026

Applications are now open for children starting Reception in September 2026. If your child turns 5 between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027, you can now apply for their school place online at:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions

Applications are open until Thursday 15 January 2026, and it is really important to apply on time.

Please also share this information with family, friends or neighbours who may have a child starting school next September — especially those new to the area who may not yet be known to the local authority.

A leaflet from Nottinghamshire County Council with full details is attached with this newsletter.

Book of the Month – Promoting a Love of Reading

As part of our focus on reading for pleasure this year, we're continuing our Book of the Month initiative. Each month, Mrs Turner carefully selects a new title for every class, following a theme and after lots of research and thought. Our Reading Ambassadors then help to deliver the books – beautifully wrapped – to each classroom.

It's a lovely way to build excitement around reading and to introduce children to a wide range of stories and authors. The November books have just been distributed, and we'd like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Turner for the care, time and creativity she puts into making this such a special part of school life. You can find all of our Book of the Month letters and lots more ideas and information about reading on the 'Reading Zone' page of our website.

[Reading Zone - Abbey Road School - West Bridgford](#)

Parent Survey – Communication and Reporting

We are always looking for ways to improve how we communicate with our school community, and we'd really value your feedback. This short survey asks about the different ways we share information with you — such as letters, emails, texts, the school website, and the school calendar. Your responses will help us understand what's working well and what could be improved.

The survey also includes a section about how we report children's attainment and progress to parents, following comments raised in our summer feedback. We would love to hear your thoughts on this, and there's an option to volunteer to join a small working party to explore this further. Our aim is to make reporting both manageable for teachers and meaningful for parents.

Thank you to Mr Good, who has developed the survey and will be working alongside me to analyse the results and lead the working party. We would be really grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey and share your thoughts — your feedback really does help us to improve.

Link to survey: [School Communication Survey – Fill in form](#)

Best wishes,

Ly Toom



Book of the Month Newsletter – November

Welcome to our first special edition of the Book of the Month newsletter:

Non-Fiction November!

This month, we're thrilled to introduce our hand-picked non-fiction books that are sure to ignite curiosity, encourage questions and uncover new passions. The Reading Ambassadors can't wait to dive in and help their peers explore these exciting titles. Here's to a month of discovery, learning, and, of course, happy reading!

Here are the books that have been shared this month:



Slugs - Slug Life!

Being called rude names by humans has made slug Stevie super-grumpy, so his mum sends him to Slug Self-Esteem Class. Stevie discovers why he and his slimy kin are actually kind of amazing: they can regrow bits of themselves, their slime is liquid crystal and their climbing skills are better than Spiderman. The first in this series about creatures humans often try to squash!

Conkers - Measuring Me!

From finding out how tall you are in food tins to how much electricity your body can generate, Measuring Me includes plenty of reliable and exciting ways to explore the concepts of measuring. Bright and lively artwork by Nicola Kent presents the topic of measuring in an exciting and personal way, encouraging little learners to engage in this important concept.



Holly - Fluffy, flying seed

Follow the journey of a fluffy, flying seed as it is carried by the wind and lands safely in a meadow, the perfect place to grow, providing a fascinating and beautiful insight into the world of plants and their importance to us.

This book will feed the curiosity of the youngest of readers who are:

- keen to know how the world works
- fascinated by nature
- enjoy learning new information



Hazel - Small, sparkling raindrop

Follow the journey of a small sparkling raindrop as it falls from a cloud and lands safely on a leaf, vital to all life on Earth.

This book will feed the curiosity of the youngest of readers who are:

- keen to know how the world works
- fascinated by nature
- enjoy learning new information



Willow - I wonder where I am?

If you get lost, it's simple — you just look at a map, and hey presto! You can find out where you are. But might there be other things a map can show? How about treasure maps, maps of your feelings, maps of how things work...? When you think about it, a map can have a million uses.

This charming new picture book by Shinsuke Yoshitake is an ingenious exploration of the wonderful world of maps and how they help to guide us.



School Communication Survey



Dates for the Term Ahead

Thursday 6 th November	Year 1 Autumn Day
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
Tuesday 18 th November	Oak class library visit
Thursday 20 th November	Lime class library visit
Monday 24 th November	OPAL launch day
Tuesday 25 th November	Elder class library visit
Thursday 27 th November	Sycamore class library visit
Friday 5 th December	HSA Christmas Fair (after school)
Monday 8 th December	Year 5 visit to National Space Centre
Friday 5 th December	HSA Christmas Fair (after school)
Tuesday 9 th December – 9.30am Thursday 11 th December – 9.30am	Reception Nativity
Tuesday 9 th December – 1.30pm Wednesday 10 th December – 9.30am	Year 1 Nativity
Thursday 11 th December	Year 1 – Grandparents Afternoon
Friday 12 th December	HSA Christmas Fair (after school) (RESERVE DATE – in case of wet weather on 5th!)
Tuesday 16 th December	Year 1 visit to Nottingham Playhouse
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 17 th December – 2.30pm	Orchestra performance to parents
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)