



# Abbey Road News

December 2025

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## Dear Parents/Carers

This half term has been an exceptionally busy one, and this newsletter brings together highlights from across school, showcasing a wide range of events, celebrations and experiences. We hope you enjoy looking through the photographs and reading about all that has taken place.

## Year 4 Residential Visit to Castleton

Our Year 4 pupils had a wonderful time on their residential visit to Castleton, enjoying two nights away from home in the beautiful Peak District. During their stay, the children explored the local area, went fossil hunting, visited the fascinating Treak Cavern where they learned about the famous Blue John stone, and even tried their hand at gem panning.

Outdoor activities were a real highlight, with den building and a blindfolded night line providing both challenge and excitement. The children also took part in a thoughtful role-play debate about housing and local facilities, where they considered different viewpoints and developed their understanding of community decision-making.

Evenings were just as memorable, with a cosy film night, a lively game of bingo, and plenty of delicious food — including, for some, an impressive four-course breakfast! Throughout the trip, the children remained upbeat, enthusiastic and wonderfully independent. They were an absolute pleasure to spend time with, and we are incredibly proud of them.





## Christmas Fair Singalong

We kicked off December with our Christmas Fair Singalong, and although the weather was a little damp, it certainly didn't dampen the festive spirit! The children kept the singing going throughout the day with whole-school singing and a relay of classroom performances, creating a wonderful atmosphere across the school.

It was a joy to bring the fair to a close with a mass singalong, involving children, families and members of the wider community all coming together to celebrate. A huge thank you to our parents for supporting the event, and to the many volunteers and staff who gave their time to run stalls and activities.

Special thanks go to our Year 6 pupils, who designed and ran some fantastic stalls and games, showing great creativity and responsibility. Thank you also to Santa for making a much-loved appearance! Finally, our sincere thanks to Lindsey Wheeler and the HSA for their planning, organisation and hard work behind the scenes — events like this simply wouldn't happen without them. We will share the final fundraising total once it has been confirmed.



## Reception and Year 1 Nativity Performances

Reception and Year 1 treated parents and families to their nativity performances last week, and as ever, it was a truly magical week. Seeing the Christmas story retold through the eyes of our youngest children never fails to warm the heart.

The children were the stars of the show, impressing us all with their fabulous acting, singing, dancing and instrument playing. From the super-confident, natural performers, to the quieter moments — the sneaky waves to parents, the proud smiles, and the looks of delight on faces in the audience — every part of the performances was special.

It is hard to put into words the joy these nativity plays bring, but they perfectly captured the spirit of Christmas and reminded us all why these moments are so treasured. We are incredibly proud of every child who took part and grateful to families for sharing such a special experience with us.







## Year 1 Grandparents' Afternoon

Year 1 welcomed grandparents into school for a very special afternoon as part of their learning about toys. The children and their grandparents enjoyed tea and cakes together, and the grandparents brought some of their own childhood toys for the children to see and play with.

We were treated to a wonderful display of Meccano, Dinky Toys, Subbuteo, die-cast model engines, much-loved teddies and dolls — and even some juggling and harmonica playing! The children also performed songs for their grandparents and showed

them around their classrooms to share their learning and achievements.

It was a truly memorable afternoon, full of smiles, laughter and special memories for children and grandparents alike.



## Thank You for Supporting Our Charity Appeals

We would like to say a huge thank you to our families for their incredible generosity in supporting our charity appeals this term. In November, we raised funds for *Children in Need*, followed by generous donations to the *Great Notts Toy Appeal* in December. Families also kindly contributed to *Autistic Nottingham* through collections held at our nativity performances.

We have been overwhelmed by the kindness shown across all three appeals, and we are extremely grateful for the support given. Our School Council representatives proudly helped to deliver the donated toys to the collection depot, and it was a wonderful opportunity for them to see first-hand the impact of our community's generosity.

We were also delighted that Mrs Phillips was interviewed by BBC Radio Nottingham about the toy appeal. An audio clip of the interview has been included below for anyone who would like to listen.



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Thank you once again for your continued support — it truly makes a difference.





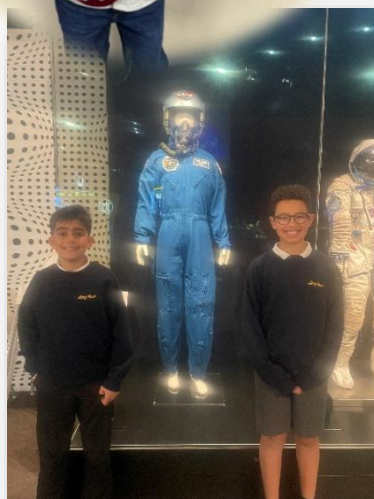
## Christmas!

The festive season has been well and truly underway in school, bringing with it all the joyful Christmas shenanigans you would expect in a primary setting! Children have enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner, a pantomime performance for Years 2 to 6, and plenty of fun-filled Christmas parties for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. As we draw the term to a close, we will be finishing on a calmer and more reflective note with a peaceful carol service in the hall.



## More Learning Experiences Across School

It has been a busy half term for trips and hands-on learning! Year 5 had a fabulous day at the National Space Centre, exploring the wonders of the universe and acting as brilliant ambassadors for the school. Year 1 enjoyed a magical visit to Nottingham Playhouse to watch *The Little Mermaid*, bringing the story to life with excitement and awe. Back in school, Year 6 have been busy designing and building air raid shelters as part of their DT work — these will be put to the ultimate test on Friday, with 'heavy rain', 'strong winds' and even simulated bomb blasts — all carried out using some very creative testing equipment! Year 2 also took part in a special 'Lasting Legacy Day' to conclude their *Wonder Women* topic, dressing up as inspiring individuals and sharing what they had learned about their heroes. Across the school, these experiences have given children the chance to learn in creative, practical and memorable ways.





## Orchestra Performance

Our school orchestra performed to parents earlier this week, treating the audience to a selection of Christmas carols and festive favourites. Younger audience members joined in brilliantly on percussion, adding to the fun and festive atmosphere.

The orchestra played beautifully and were a real pleasure to listen to. Our thanks go to Mrs Smart for leading the orchestra so skilfully and to all of the children for such an enjoyable performance.



## Parent Communication Survey

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to respond to our recent survey on communication. We have carefully reviewed and collated all responses, and the feedback has already been shared and discussed with our office team and senior leaders.

As with all consultation feedback, we will take the views shared into account as we continue to review and develop our communication systems. While it may not be possible to act on every individual suggestion, all responses have helped to inform our thinking and future decisions. A working party has also met to discuss how we share progress information with parents, and this was a particularly productive and valuable discussion. We will keep families updated as we make any changes or developments informed by this feedback.

## Happy Holidays!

As we reach the end of the term, we would like to wish all of our families a happy and restful holiday period, whatever this time of year looks like for you. We recognise that for some families this may not be a time of extended rest, particularly for those working in essential and frontline roles. Wherever possible, we hope there are moments of calm, connection and enjoyment over the coming weeks. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January and starting the new term together.

Best wishes,

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## Dates for the Term Ahead

More dates will continue to be added each month. We also have an online calendar, which is displayed on our website in 'News and Events'. You can also view the calendar by following this link.

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/d759b9ef88bc40518d03508ddd18e0db@abbeyroadprimary.co.uk/0210170dbe37449da48b20398091347911687238503411871857/calendar.html>

Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Last day of term</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<b>Back to school</b>
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<b>Young Voices (Glee Club members)</b>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>Year 3 to Cresswell Crag</b>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>HSA Disco</b> 6.15-7.15 – Reception and Key Stage 1 7.30-8.30 – Key Stage 2
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>INSET Day</b> (school closed for staff training)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Half term</b>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Equals Trust - Year 4 football tournament</b> (mixed team representing Abbey Road)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Parents Evenings – 3.50-7pm</b>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Equals Trust 'Let's Sing' event at the Albert Hall, Nottingham</b> (evening performance for Y6 Glee Club members)
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Back to school</b>