



Abbey Road News

February 2026

Abbey Road Primary School, Tewkesbury Close, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5ND
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Dear Parents/Carers

Mrs McNeill

After 28 remarkable years of service, we will be wishing a very fond farewell to Mrs McNeill, who will be retiring from her role as School Office Administrator this week, with her final working day being Tuesday 10th February.

For nearly three decades, she has been the steady heartbeat of our school office — welcoming families, supporting staff, keeping us organised and ensuring that the school runs smoothly day after day. Her knowledge, kindness and calm presence have shaped the experience of countless pupils, parents and colleagues. It's hard to imagine the office without her smile!

As we celebrate her retirement, we want to say a huge thank you for everything she has given to the Abbey Road community, including leading many Macmillan Coffee Mornings (and sharing her exceptional baking skills!). Her commitment and care have left a lasting legacy, and she will be very much missed by us all.

Mrs McNeill has also always been a willing volunteer at Young Voices, and the children's singing truly warms her heart — she often sneaks into the back of Glee Club and singing assembly!

We hope you will join us in wishing Mrs McNeill a joyful and well-deserved retirement, filled with new adventures, relaxation and everything she loves most.



A Truly Inspiring Visit from MC Grammar

We were delighted to welcome MC Grammar into school this term. His high-energy performances filled the hall with excitement, laughter and creativity, inspiring children across school to see reading, language and words in a whole new way.

Reception children were completely captivated by an interactive story full of rhythm, music and surprises, while pupils

in Years 1–6 loved performing raps together, joining in dance-offs and even cheering on some memorable teacher rap battles! Throughout the day, MC Grammar encouraged confidence, self-expression and a real love of language, showing children just how powerful and fun words can be.

A huge thank you to our Home School Association (HSA) for funding this very special visit. It was an inspiring experience that we hope will stay with the children for a long time.





Chess Success!

A team of keen and skilful chess players represented Abbey Road at the Equals Trust Chess Tournament earlier this half term. Our four boys played with focus, determination, and sportsmanship, chatting and making friends with players from other schools along the way.

The tournament came down to the very last game, with the outcome hanging on both our final match and another key game. It was edge-of-your-seat exciting as the games ended and the results were revealed, and we are delighted to celebrate our team's well-deserved victory!

Well done to all the players for representing Abbey Road with such confidence and positive spirit.

OPAL Update

This week, we will be introducing a new 'Wheel Zone' onto one of our playgrounds. As with every new OPAL activity, Mr Jones carried out a risk-benefit discussion with the children, framed around the NOWs (things we must remember and the rules), the WOWs (the fun and excitement), and the OWs (the possible risks). This helps children understand how to enjoy new play opportunities safely and responsibly.

It has been lovely to see children starting to get fully immersed in OPAL play — dressing up, digging in the sandpit and creating art together. Recent rainy weather has also brought some unexpected play opportunities, with enormous puddles becoming the focus of imaginative fun! Children have been busy sweeping and collecting water, making paper boats, and racing them across the puddles (with lots of determined blowing and plenty of laughter!). OPAL continues to encourage creativity, teamwork and joy in play — whatever the weather!



RE Learning Brought to Life

As part of their RE learning, children have had the opportunity to visit different places of worship, helping them to deepen their understanding of different faiths and beliefs. Year 4 visited a local mosque, while Year 5 travelled to a gurdwara, experiencing these important places first-hand.



It was great to see classroom learning brought to life and to hear the thoughtful questions and reflections from the children as they learned more about different religions and communities. Many thanks to our Home School Association (HSA) for supporting these visits by contributing towards travel costs.



Year 3 Visit Creswell Crags

Year 3 had a fantastic day at Creswell Crags, stepping back into the Stone Age through a range of exciting, hands-on activities. The children explored a real cave, built shelters, pieced together a wolf skeleton and even tried spear-throwing, finding out just how challenging life was for early humans.



They were a credit to the school throughout the visit and were praised by the Creswell Crags learning centre staff for their curiosity, knowledge and excellent behaviour. The children returned to school full of enthusiasm, keen to talk about how much they had enjoyed the day. Well done, Year 3

Supporting Children's Digital Lives – A Helpful Guide for Parents and Carers

Navigating the online world with children can be tricky — it is a constantly changing landscape and full of surprises. That's why the Children's Commissioner for England has published a practical, child-informed guide to help parents and carers support their children's digital lives.

The guide, 'What I wish my parents or carers knew...', brings together insights from young people themselves about what they'd like adults to understand about their online experiences. It offers advice on screen time, online habits, handling difficult conversations, and navigating risks safely — all in a way that makes it easier to talk with your child, not at them.

Whether you're unsure where to start, worried about harmful content, or simply want to build stronger digital-age conversations with your child, this resource can help.

Read the guide here: ['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

Reading Support

A huge thank you to Councillor Penny Gowland for allocating funding to support literacy volunteers in our school. This funding will help us continue providing valuable one-to-one reading support to our pupils — we are very grateful for this generous contribution!

Lost Property Plea

We are really struggling to reunite lost clothing with its owners, and we would appreciate your support with this. Earlier this term, our lost property bins became so full that we had to clear them — and out of two overflowing bins, only four items were named.

All unclaimed items were laundered and donated to Sharewear, who were very grateful. However, there were a large number of items that appeared almost brand new, including several coats, which we were sad not to be able to return to their owners.

Please can we ask that all items of clothing, including coats, jumpers, cardigans and PE kit, are clearly named. It makes such a difference and helps us get belongings back to the right children quickly.

Name labels are great, but names written with biro can work just as well!

Best wishes,

Ly Toom

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>

Wednesday 11 th February	Reading for Pleasure Information evening for parents – 5pm in the school hall
Wednesday 11 th February	4pm – Sportshall Athletics at the West Bridgford School Year 6 team
Thursday 12 th February	Boys Football 3.30 - Abbey Road vs. Cropwell Bishop (home game)
Thursday 12 th February	Year 5 breadmaking
Friday 13 th February	INSET Day (school closed for staff training)
Monday 16 th to Friday 20 th February	Half term
Friday 27 th February	Young Voices (rearranged from January) Glee Club members from years 3 to 6
w/b 2 nd March	World Book Day (reading themed week)
Friday 13 th March	Equals Trust - Year 4 football tournament (mixed team representing Abbey Road)
Tuesday 17 th and Thursday 19 th March	Parents Evenings – 3.50-7pm
Wednesday 25 th March	Equals Trust 'Let's Sing' event at the Albert Hall, Nottingham (evening performance for Y6 Glee Club members)
Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13 th April	Back to school