Abbey Road News

Summer 1 2026

Abbey Road Primary School, Tewkesbury Close, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5ND
Tel: 0115 9748055 E-mail: office@abbeyroadprimary.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

Beaumanor Residential 2026 – Year 2

At the beginning of May, our Year 2 children enjoyed their eagerly awaited residential visit to Beaumanor Hall. For many of the children, this was their first time staying away from home and they approached the experience with such enthusiasm and excitement from start to finish.

The children took part in a range of outdoor activities, including den building, pond dipping and searching for minibeasts in the woodland area. The evening campfire was a real highlight, with everyone enjoying songs and toasting marshmallows together. The nature walks gave the children the chance to explore the beautiful grounds, while activities such as archery encouraged them to challenge themselves and try something new.

Throughout the trip, the children impressed us with their independence, resilience and teamwork. They supported one another brilliantly, showed excellent manners and they embraced every opportunity with positivity. From organising their belongings to encouraging friends during activities, they represented Abbey Road wonderfully.

It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved and the children made memories that we hope they will treasure for years to come. We were incredibly proud of them all – well done, Year 2!

Here are just a few photographs from our time at Beaumanor Hall. Lots more pictures can be found on our school website. Beaumanor Hall Trip! - Abbey Road School - West Bridgford

Upcoming Music Events

Monday 8th June - Music Concert (6pm)
Glee Club and Orchestra are invited to perform at our annual Music Concert (parents will receive a separate letter with more details).

If your child is in years 4, 5 or 6, has music lessons outside of school and would like the opportunity to play individually or in a small group at our concert, please chat to me or Mr Marshall or email: head@abbeyroadprimary.co.uk before Friday 5th June. We ask that children putting themselves forward to play an instrument are confident musicians - ideally those working at grade level or who have been learning for at least a year.

Friday 3rd July – Summer Festival
Glee Club and Abbey Road's got Talent finalists will be performing.

Tuesday 30th June will be our final Glee Club session for this academic year; we will begin again in September.

Orchestra Update

At the end of this term, Laura Smart will be stepping down from her role as leader of our school orchestra. We are pleased that she will continue teaching individual instrumental lessons at Abbey Road, and we know the children she works with will continue to benefit from her expertise and encouragement.

When Laura Smart launched our orchestra back in 2022, it was the fulfilment of something we had long hoped to offer for our young musicians. With her passion, dedication and enthusiasm, she took that idea and turned it into a reality. Under her leadership, the orchestra has flourished, growing in both confidence and talent, and becoming a much-loved part of school life. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy and care she has given to making the orchestra such a success.

As we look ahead, we are hoping to find someone new to lead the next chapter of our orchestra's journey and continue helping it to grow and thrive. Could you be the person to take on this role, or do you know someone who would be perfect for the job? Mrs Smart certainly leaves behind some very big shoes to fill, but also a fantastic foundation and a wonderful group of young musicians ready to continue making music together!

Year 6 Update: SATs, Celebration and Ancient Maya Learning

A few weeks ago, our Year 6 children completed their SATs tests and we were incredibly proud of the determination, resilience and positive attitudes they showed throughout the build-up and during the week itself. As an end of week celebration, the children enjoyed a fantastic Ancient Maya themed day. They took part in a range of activities including creating artwork, exploring artefacts and photographs, grinding spices, learning more about Maya food and culture, and even trying out the traditional Maya ball game, Pok-a-Tok, in an inflatable arena! You can find more photos on our website: [Ancient Maya Day - Abbey Road School - West Bridgford]

It has been lovely to see the children proudly wearing their leavers' hoodies as they begin to celebrate their final half term at primary school. Having auditioned for and been given their parts, the children are now very much looking forward to working on their upcoming performance of *Looking Good Robin Hood*.

Visit to Leawood Manor

Just before the half term holiday, our School Council representatives enjoyed a visit to Leawood Manor Care Home, where they spent time chatting with residents, sharing stories and playing games together.

The children were excellent ambassadors for Abbey Road, showing kindness, confidence and respect throughout the visit. It was lovely to see the conversations flowing and to witness connections being formed across generations. The visit brought smiles to both the residents and children alike, and was a valuable experience for everyone involved.

SciTech Challenge 2026

Last half term saw the return of our exciting annual SciTech Challenge, where children were tasked with designing and building a buggy capable of safely transporting an egg whilst using a braking system to stop before crashing into a wall. The challenge sparked lots of creativity, problem-solving and competitive spirit across school – it is always one of my favourite events!

The initial heats, held in school, were incredibly exciting, with children testing, adapting and racing their designs in the hope of securing a place in the school final. The standard of entries was exceptionally high and it was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, teamwork and determination from everyone who took part. A huge well done to every child who entered the competition and thank-you to parents for playing a brilliant supporting role!

Congratulations also go to our finalists, who went on to represent Abbey Road at the Trust-wide competition against children from 18 other schools. Arlo proudly represented Key Stage 1, Ryan and Arav competed in the Upper Key Stage 2 category, while Woody and Thomas represented Years 3 and 4. As well as demonstrating their buggy in action, some children were also interviewed by one of the judges and had to explain how their design worked and the thinking behind it. They spoke confidently and impressed the judges with their knowledge and engineering skills.

The competition itself was incredibly close, with some fantastic designs on show from across the Trust. Arlo achieved an excellent second place in his category with his clever and carefully thought-out design, while Woody and Thomas were crowned winners of their group after their braking sensor worked consistently and successfully every time. We are extremely proud of all of the children involved. They showed creativity, resilience, teamwork and fantastic sportsmanship throughout the challenge.

Year 5 Football Success

A huge well done to a group of our Year 5 footballers, who recently took part in a football festival at the Nigel Doughty Academy. The team had a fantastic day, performing exceptionally well across all of their matches. They won every game, with the exception of one draw, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout.

As a highlight of the day, the children also had the exciting opportunity to meet the Nottingham Forest manager and several players after their matches. All five children represented Abbey Road superbly, both on and off the pitch.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Following the launch of our new school Facebook page, we are happy to see our online community continuing to grow steadily. Thank you to everyone who has already followed, liked and engaged with our posts. We have also recently launched a new Instagram page. Although both platforms are still relatively new, we will continue adding regular updates, photographs and news to help families stay connected with things that are happening in school.

If you have not already done so, we would love for you to search 'Abbey Road Primary School', take a look and follow our pages.

Head Lice Reminder

We have recently received a small number of reports of head lice across school and would be grateful if families could check their child's hair over the coming weeks. Regular checking and early treatment, where needed, can help to reduce the spread. For further advice about identifying and treating head lice, including current NHS guidance, please visit NHS Head Lice and Nits Guidance. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Scooter and Bike Amnesty

We currently have a number of scooters and bikes stored on site which appear to have been left at school for quite some time. If your child is missing a scooter or bike, please could you check our bike rack areas before the end of term to see if one belongs to them.

Unfortunately, we are unable to keep unclaimed items indefinitely and, at the end of the school year, any scooters or bikes that have not been collected will be recycled or donated. Thank you for your support in helping us clear and organise these areas ready for September.

Calling All Sports, Health and Wellbeing Experts!

During the week beginning 13th July, we will be holding our annual Sports and Health Week. As you will see from the school calendar below, there are lots of events, activities and opportunities planned across the week to help promote healthy lifestyles, wellbeing and a love of sport and physical activity.

As part of the week, we would also love to draw upon the talents, experiences and expertise within our own school community. If you are a parent or family member with knowledge, skills or interests linked to sport, health, fitness or wellbeing, we would be delighted to hear from you. This could include leading an assembly, speaking to a class about your experiences or career, running a workshop or activity session, or sharing a particular skill or passion with the children.

We know we have many talented members of our school community and would love the children to benefit from hearing about and experiencing a wide range of opportunities and interests. If you feel you may be able to support in any way, please contact the school office or chat to me, Mrs Dussek or Mr Marshall — we would be very grateful for your involvement.

'The Big Future' Children's Survey

We have received a request from Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, asking us to share the following information with families and to encourage children to take part and share their views. This is a valuable opportunity for children to have their voices heard and to contribute to important conversations about their futures and experiences.

'As Children's Commissioner, I'm writing to ask for your support in helping children at your school take part in my new survey, The Big Future.

Your pupils can take part here: http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture.

As many of your Year 6 pupils will have recently finished their SATs, this could be a great opportunity for them to reflect on their time at primary school and share their hopes and ideas for the future in their own words.

I want to hear from children aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country, and your support will help make that possible. I'm asking children about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they want to see in their communities, and what they think a good childhood should look like today.

I would be hugely grateful if you could share the survey with pupils, parents and carers across your school community. Schools with particularly high participation rates will receive formal recognition for helping amplify children's voices, along with a summary of their pupils' responses, and an invite to my final Festival of Childhood.

To support you, I've created a pack of resources including an introductory video, lesson materials and FAQs, all available on [my website](#).

I'll publish the findings next year, and they will help shape the conversations and decisions being made about children's lives and futures at the highest levels.

Thank you very much for your support.'

A reminder that Monday 1st June is an INSET day, so school will be closed to children while staff are in school for training and preparation. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 2nd June.

After the recent half term heatwave, it looks like we may be heading towards a spell of cooler, wetter weather so please do keep an eye on the forecast as we head into the new week – jackets may be needed again!

Best wishes,

Ly Toom

Dates for the Term Ahead

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/0210170dbe37449da48b203980913479116872385034118718 57/calendar.html

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May	**Half term**
Monday 1st June	**INSET day**
Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd June	**Book Bus** – on the top playground
Monday 8th June – 6pm	**Music Concert – Glee Club and orchestra**
Tuesday 9th June – 5.45pm	**Whitby parents meeting** – in the school hall
w/b 8th June	**Year 1 Phonics Screening Check** A short national check to assess children's phonics knowledge and early reading skills. **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check** A national assessment designed to check children's fluency and recall of multiplication facts up to 12 × 12.
Monday 15th June (all day)	**Girls Can Code – Nottingham University -** year 5 group
Thursday 18th June	**Class photos**
Monday 22nd June (all day)	**Bike Club visit to Hicks Lodge**
Monday 29th June	**Year 1 to St. Luke's Church**
Tuesday 30th June	**Opal – Parent Event** 9-9.30am – information meeting (school hall) 9.30-11am – Stay and Play!
Tuesday 30th June and Wednesday 1st July	**Year 6 production** (evening performances at Abbey Road)
Thursday 2nd July	**Year 4 Viking day**

Friday 3rd July (after school)	**HSA Summer Festival**
Sunday 5th July to Tuesday 7th July	**Year 6 bike club residential**
Wednesday 8th July	**Move-up morning** (children visit their new classes) **Year 6 transition day at Rushcliffe Spencer Academy**
Thursday 9th July	**End-of-year reports to parents**
Friday 10th July	**Key Stage 2 Sports Day**
Monday 13th July to Thursday 16th July	**Year 6 residential visit to Whitby**
w/b Monday 13th July	**Health Week**
Monday 13th July (pm)	**Reception and key stage 1 sports day**
Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th July	**Scooter workshops – years 3 and 4**
Tuesday 14th July	**Bike races**
Wednesday 15th July	**Year 1 visit to Clip n Climb**
Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th July	**BMX workshops – year 5**
Thursday 16th July	**Mental health/Wellbeing day**
Friday 17th July (am)	**Trampolining workshops - Reception, years 1 and 2** **Sport Leader led activities**
Monday 20th July (pm)	**Reserve sports day (reception/key stage 1)**
Tuesday 21st July (all day)	**Year 5 'Bright Day' at Rushcliffe Spencer Academy**
Wednesday 22nd July	**Reserve sports day (key stage 2)**
Friday 24th July	**Last day of term** **9.15am – year 6 leaver's assembly**