



Abbey Road News

Tuesday 29th January 2019

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Young Voices 2019



Abbey Road added plenty of volume and bags of enthusiasm to Friday's Young Voices concert. Weekly Glee Club and a long day of rehearsals definitely paid off and, when the lights went down, everyone was ready to give it their all. When I asked the children for their feedback this morning, they were keen to tell me about their favourite moments. Isolde (Y4) summed up the evening very well. She said: *'It was an unforgettable experience – the coloured lights and the sound of so many voices singing together was just magical!'* Unfortunately, a particularly nasty virus prevented some children and staff from taking part but we very much hope to be able to attend again next year.

Thank you so much to Mr Marshall, Mrs McNeill and Mrs Hill for organising the event and to parents who accompanied us for the day – everything ran so smoothly as a result of their hard work and support. On a personal note, I am still recovering from meeting Tony Hadley (one of the special guest stars) - #starstruck! Many more photos of our day will be uploaded to the school website.

Snow Warning

With snow forecast for this week, can I just remind you that we will be in touch by email and text should there be a need to close school. As ever, we will do everything possible to remain open... just as we did last year!



One of the highlights of last year's 'snow day' was the opportunity to play together on the field. Should that chance arise again, please make sure that children have a change of shoes for indoor wear (wellies or walking boots are great for outdoor use) as well as sensible outer-clothes to keep warm – a coat, hat and gloves are essential. (Spare socks and gloves are always useful too!)

Shoebox Appeal

If anyone has a spare shoebox at home, the Year 4 team would be very grateful if it could be dropped off at the school office or with Year 4 teachers. This would really support them with a design & technology project planned for this half term. Many thanks.

Attendance

In our most recent review of attendance, we have identified a higher than usual percentage of children whose attendance has fallen below, or very close to, 90% - a figure which is classed by the Department of Education as 'persistent absenteeism'. As I write, I am fully aware that a variety of nasty viruses are working their way around school and I do understand that children are sometimes unwell – we certainly aren't encouraging you to send your child to school with a high temperature or a stomach bug! However, in some cases, periods of absence have become more regular and we have a duty to explore and monitor these.

The chart below illustrates how many days of school are missed over the course of one school year when attendance drops to the following levels.

Attendance	No. of days absent during the course of a school year
90%	19 days
85%	29 days
80%	38 days
75%	48 days
70%	57 days

Once a child is registered at a school, parents and carers are legally responsible for making sure they attend regularly. Children who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and regular absence from school can also impact children's social and emotional development.

One of the things that has proved helpful in the past, is for parents to have been informed of their child's attendance figure and details. Therefore, where attendance has fallen below 91%, parents will be issued with a copy of their child's attendance record for the academic year so far.

In cases where attendance remains low and sickness related absence is frequent, we may request medical certification in order to be able to authorise periods of non-attendance, particularly when discussions have not taken place with school for the reasons for this.

We also know that there are children at Abbey Road with more complex medical needs, where higher absence rates are linked to ongoing conditions and related appointments. If this is the case for your child, and we have not been fully informed, it is vital that you let us know so that we are aware and able to support you appropriately.

Some instances of lower attendance are as a result of extended holidays being taken during term time. Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that we are not permitted to authorise these absences - unless there are exceptional circumstances, which result in these requests being made outside of school holidays.

In more extreme cases of persistent absence, we are able to refer families to Nottinghamshire's Early Help Unit to help us to ensure that a child's educational needs are being met. This could result in school deciding to issue a penalty notice. Further details of Nottinghamshire County Council's approach to school attendance and absence, including the issue of penalty notices, can be found by following this link: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-discipline-and-exclusions/attendance-absence-truancy>

Please do not hesitate to talk to us if you have any questions or concerns about attendance. Mrs Lovett, our Family Link Worker and Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) is available to offer support and advice and I am also happy to meet or for you to email me directly: head@abbeyroad.notts.sch.uk.

Indoor Rowing Stars!

Sixteen members of Year 6 took part in the Rushcliffe indoor rowing finals last week, competing against schools with a lot more experience. I was so impressed with their performance – not only had they picked up the rowing technique really quickly, but they also learned how to work together in their teams of four, switching places at speed on the machines. One of our boy's teams picked up a bronze medal, having put in a particularly powerful performance and our girls narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing a very close fourth.



Cross Country Success!

Congratulations to the ten children who represented Abbey Road so brilliantly in the Rushcliffe Schools Cross-country Championships. Running against the best runners from across the borough, Jacob Hughes stormed home to a brilliant second place, with Oliver Feakes, Hannah Vincent and Kirsten Lees all finishing in the top twelve and therefore securing places to represent Rushcliffe in the County Championships next month.

Emily Hughes (Y5) finished 13th with all the other team members not far behind. Mrs Dussek is confident that we will have some great contenders for the county team next year, judging by the running talent in Year 5! Good luck to our county runners for this Saturday's championship.

Project Pond!

Our Eco-Club have embarked on a new project this term. Many children (and staff!) had no idea that a pond existed at Abbey Road – it was exceptionally well hidden! However, after just one session, the children had cleared the overgrown plants and weeds and the pond was suddenly visible. The group plans to develop the area further – hopefully creating a number of different micro-habitats, which will attract a variety of wildlife to our school.

Lost Property

Please, please, please can I ask that you check your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name? We are finding so many coats and jumpers around school at the moment and the lack of names makes it incredibly difficult to reunite items with the correct owner. With so many coats the same colour and brand, it is inevitable that children will sometimes pick up an item that doesn't belong to them. We do try hard to help children find their belongings but, without names, this process takes so much longer! Many thanks for your support.



Health for Kids

A new website, funded and commissioned by Public Health Nottinghamshire, has just been launched. The interactive website, 'Health for Kids', provides information in a fun and interactive way, in order to support children and young people's emotional and physical health and well-being.

The content is all clinically assured and provides health information that is safe and from a trusted source. Children and their parents/carers can browse the four health worlds – 'Staying Healthy', 'Illness', 'Feelings' and 'Getting Help', which are all populated with information, activities and links to useful services. More local service links can be found through the 'Parents/Carers' tab.

You can access the website by following the link www.healthforkids.co.uk.

School Dinners

A reminder from Mrs Naake and Mrs Hill... School meals need to be paid for in advance – either on a Monday for the week ahead or, if you prefer, you can pay for a number of weeks upfront.

Keep on Reading!

Our Rainbows and Sunshines have enjoyed library visits this term and other classes will be visiting the library again during the summer.

We have an exciting, whole-school reading event planned for World Book Day, Thursday 7th March – more news will be with you soon.



Best wishes, Ly Toom

Dates for the Term Ahead

Saturday 2 nd February	Nottinghamshire Cross-Country Championship
Monday 4 th February	Girls Futsal Tournament
Friday 8 th February	Cross-Country Event at Wollaton Hall
Monday 11 th February	Swimming Gala
Tuesday 12 th February	6.15pm – Information Evening for Year 6 Parents - SATs
Wednesday 13 th February	Year 4 'Share our Learning' Event – 2.30pm
Wednesday 13 th February	Cricket Tournament
Thursday 14 th February	Year 4 Visit to Beaumanor Hall
Friday 15 th February	INSET Day
Monday 18 th - Friday 22 nd February	Half Term
Thursday 28 th February	HSA Disco – 6.15-7.15 – EYFS/KS1, 7.30-8.30 – KS2
Monday 4 th March	Height & Weight Checks for EYFS & Year 6
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day – whole school event
Tuesday 19 th & Thursday 21 st March	Parents Evenings – 4pm-7pm
Friday 29 th March	On the Stage Performance (Friday Group)
Tuesday 2 nd April	On the Stage Performance (Tuesday Group)
Friday 5 th April	Last Day of Term