



# Abbey Road News

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022

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

### Attendance

We have recently updated our attendance policy in response to new guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). You can find our updated policy here: [Attendance-Policy-2022-.pdf \(abbeyroadprimary.co.uk\)](https://www.abbeyroadprimary.co.uk/Attendance-Policy-2022-.pdf). The DfE have also produced a guide for parents to explain the new guidance. You can find this here: [DfE external document template \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/DfE-external-document-template)

We will now be issuing an attendance report to all parents at the end of each term, rather than just at the end of the year. Your child should bring this home today.

### ATTENDANCE FACTS

- 97% or above equates to less than 6 days of absence during a school year – excellent!
- 95% equates to 10 days absence in a year – very good!
- 90% - Pupils with this attendance are missing approximately a month (20 days) of school per year. This is the threshold for 'persistent absence', as defined by the DfE.
- 85% - Pupils are missing approximately 6 weeks of school a year.
- 80% - Pupils with this attendance are missing a day for every week of school – more than two weeks of absence every term.

Low attendance can have a huge impact on a child's academic progress and also on their social and emotional development. We have a duty to communicate with parents, where absence becomes persistent (below 90%) so we can learn more about each individual situation and work together to address any barriers to support children to attend school more regularly.

**HOLIDAYS** - Our policy regarding term-time holidays remains unchanged; we are not able to authorise any holiday in term time and can only authorise a leave of absence where there are exceptional circumstances. If your child has a number of unauthorised absences, you are at risk of receiving a penalty notice (fine) from the local authority.

**ILLNESS** - Where children are too ill to attend school, they need to rest up and take it easy so they can get well soon. I know that some children have been affected by some particularly lingering infections in recent weeks, and we recognise that some instances of persistent absence are as the result of a single, lengthier period of illness. In these cases, we know that attendance will soon be back on track. Absence rates can also be negatively affected by more regular, short-term episodes of illness. I understand that it can sometimes be difficult to know whether to send your child to school when they are feeling under the weather. The NHS have produced a useful guide for parents: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/Is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/). If your child is too ill to be at school, it's important to phone (0115 974 8055) before 8.40am to let us know that your child won't be in and the reason why (we do need more information than 'they are unwell'). Many thanks for your continued support in this area.

### Mrs Pearson – Maternity Leave

Mrs Pearson will be starting her maternity leave after February half term. We have appointed an experienced Reception teacher, Mrs Fleming, to stand in for her as Rainbows teacher. Mrs Fleming will be popping into school next half term to get to know more about life at Abbey Road and our Rainbows children. Mrs Worton will continue to work with the class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

## Dinner Money – Ready Reckoner

Thinking ahead to the new year, if you like to pay up-front for school meals for the whole half term, the cost for the first half of the spring term will be £68.60 (a daily charge of £2.45).

## Christmas Magic



The festive spirit has certainly been building over the last few weeks. Our Christmas Fair was a huge success, raising nearly £3000 for the school. Thank you to parents for contributing so generously in so many different ways and for braving the cold weather to join us. Thanks to Glee Club and Mr Marshall for singing with such enthusiasm and a huge well done to our Year 6 children (and their parents!) who excelled themselves by creating so many creative games and stalls. Special thanks go to our wonderful HSA and to all the volunteers who worked incredibly hard before, during and after the fair.

Over the last two weeks, children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have spread some very special Christmas joy with their performances of the nativity story. It was wonderful to see them delivering their lines and singing and dancing with such confidence. Thank you to staff for all their hard work in creating moments to be remembered and treasured forever. Charity collections raised money for the Friary Drop-in Centre (£130), Footprints (£156) and the Children's Cancer Ward at QMC (£225). Your donations have all been very gratefully received – many thanks.

Many other Christmas activities have filled the timetable over the last few days, adding plenty of music and laughter, sparkle and glitter to the final days of the term.

## Carol Service

We hope that you will be able to join us for the end of term outdoor carol service on Wednesday, which will take place on our front playground from 2.45-3.15pm. Please spread the word... parents, grandparents and friends are all welcome to come along and lend their voices and share in the festive cheer!

As has also become tradition, Christmas jumpers (and other festive accessories) can be worn on the last day of term. Please can you make sure that children also bring appropriate clothing to keep warm – a coat and hat would be perfect! In the event of heavy rain, we will hold the service in the school hall, where unfortunately there will be no room for parents and extended family to join us. Fingers crossed for dry weather! During the service, we will have a voluntary collection for the Salvation Army, who do so much good work to look after vulnerable people and those in crisis.

## School Council Toy Appeal

Mrs Phillips and Mrs Worton, together with our School Council representatives would like to pass on their thanks to everybody who kindly donated toys and other gifts for our Christmas Toy Appeal. Our School Council elves enjoyed sorting the presents, which were safely delivered to the Great Notts Toy Appeal earlier this month.



Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December End of term	<b>Christmas jumpers &amp; festive outfits can be worn for the last day of term</b>
	<b>Outdoor Carol Service – Top Playground – 2.45pm</b> (Parents and families are very welcome to join us)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	<b>Back to school</b>

Warmest wishes for a wonderful Christmas holiday; may it be happy, healthy and filled with festive cheer! And for those of you still working over the next few weeks, I hope you manage to get a break and enjoy precious time with family and friends too.

Best wishes,



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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from everyone at Abbey Road!


