



Abbey Road News

Friday 20th October 2023

Abbey Road Primary School, Tewkesbury Close, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5ND

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Dear Parents/Carers

Ofsted

As you know, our week started with a phone call from the Ofsted team who told us they would be spending Tuesday and Wednesday in school. Three inspectors were with us for both days – from 8am until 6pm – during which time they learned a lot about life at Abbey Road. They spent time in classrooms and out on the playground. They talked to pupils and staff to find out more about the quality of learning, behaviour and attitudes and personal development at our school. They examined leadership at all levels – from curriculum subject leaders to our senior leadership team - and they sought the views of parents, governors and representatives from Equals Trust.

As I am sure you will appreciate, our days didn't end at 6pm when our visitors left the school site and so we are very thankful for your understanding when we changed the dates of our parents evening meetings. *(You should now have received an email confirming the new date and time of your appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if this isn't convenient for you.)*

The full report of our inspection will take time to be published, as it has to go through a quality control process. I will, of course, share this with you as soon as I am able to but in the meantime, I would like to share that the week has been a perfect illustration of the amazing Abbey Road community in action. We have been overwhelmed by kind words of support, your positive feedback... and by the endless supply of biscuits and cakes that arrived in the staffroom! The children have been fabulous throughout and inspectors were keen to tell us how impressed they were with the confident way in which they shared their views and answered questions. They demonstrated our Abbey Road values in abundance, and I am very proud of them. I am also incredibly proud of the staff team for their hard work and commitment to the school. We remain as determined as ever to do the best we can for the children at Abbey Road. We don't do what we do for Ofsted, but we absolutely take their feedback on board, and it will be business as usual next half term!

The School Day

We have received a few questions about the timings of our school day and so here is a quick reminder. Children should arrive at school between 8.40 and 8.50am and go straight to their classroom, where they will be met at the door by classroom staff. Parents are able to pass quick messages on to teachers/teaching assistants at this time, but if you are looking to discuss anything at greater length, you will need to arrange a meeting at a separate time (either by asking the class teacher at the beginning or end of the day, writing a note or calling/emailing the school office or year group account (eg: year3@abbeyroadprimary.co.uk).

Lessons begin at 8.50am and all children should be in school by this time. Typically, classroom doors will close at this time and it can be very unsettling for a child to enter their class once the day has started. If you are experiencing any difficulties in getting your child to school on time, for whatever reason, please contact us to let us know - we are keen to help! Any child arriving at school between 8.55 and 9.10am will be marked as 'late' in the register. Internal gates will be locked from 8.55am and all children will need to report to the school office from this time. Children who are regularly late miss so much learning over time and this does have a significant impact on their progress.

If a child arrives at school after 9.10am, this will be marked as an 'unauthorised absence', unless they are late due to a medical appointment or exceptional circumstances.

Hometime - Our school day officially ends at 3.30pm. To support the safe handover of children to parents, teachers of our youngest children may start to dismiss pupils from 3.25pm, if carers are present.



Harvest Thanks

We have received a letter of thanks from the Friary Drop-in Centre expressing their gratitude for your harvest donations. The food will be vital to support local homeless and vulnerable adults during the months ahead. Despite increased demand, the Friary have been able to continue providing hot takeaway breakfasts twice a week as well as food parcels to those with and without cooking facilities. The children learned a little

more about the work the Friary do during our Harvest Assembly.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

It was wonderful to see so many of you in school for our MacMillan Coffee Morning earlier this term. Thanks to your generous donations, we raised a lot of money for MacMillan Cancer Care, which is fantastic as they do so much to support people living with cancer and their families. Many thanks for coming along and supporting the event – we hope you enjoyed eating cake for breakfast!



Midday Supervisor Vacancies

Last month, I wrote to you about two vacancies for midday supervisors. These have now been filled, but we noticed that some information within the advert was incorrect and I would like to correct this. Firstly, the rate of pay was not up to date and should have read as the hourly rate being £10.60. Secondly, the contact email address had not been updated and so even though the link for applications was correct, any queries sent to Mrs Hill would not have reached her. If you had expressed an interest in the role and did not receive a response to your enquiry, please do contact the school office to let us know – or email Mrs Hill at sbm@abbeyroadprimary.co.uk.

Duathlon

Thanks to Mrs Dussek and the HSA for organising our after-school duathlon – it was such a fun and active event. It took me a while to learn the rules – but I thoroughly enjoyed watching parents and children race and ride around the circuit. There were lots of red faces by the end and every single competitor should feel very proud of their achievements.



It has been a super-busy week at the end of a busy half term and we are very much ready for the break ahead.

We look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 6th November.

Best wishes,

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Dates for the Term Ahead

Friday 20 th October	INSET Day
Monday 23 rd October - Friday 3 rd November	Half term
Tuesday 7 th November	Storytelling workshops – Year 6
6 th – 8 th November	Hathersage residential – 4G
8 th – 10 th November	Hathersage residential – 4P
Monday 13 th November	Year 2 Florence Nightingale Experience (funded by the HSA)
Tuesday 14 th November	Year 1 ‘Toys from the Past’ day (funded by the HSA)
Tuesday 14 th November Thursday 16 th November	Parents Evening – 3.50-7pm
Monday 27 th November	Year 3 visit to Cresswell Crag
w/b Monday 13 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 1 st December	HSA Outdoor Christmas Fair (after school)
Tuesday 12 th December – 9.30am	Reception Nativity – Sunshine and Rainbow classes
Tuesday 12 th December – 1.45pm	Y1 Nativity – 1P and 1B
Wednesday 13 th December – 9.30am	Y1 Nativity – 1P and 1B
Thursday 14 th December – 9.30am	Reception Nativity – Sunshine and Rainbow classes
Friday 15 th December	Year 1 visit to Nottingham Playhouse
Monday 18 th December	Year 1 grandparents afternoon (sharing childhood toys) - 2pm
Friday 22 nd December	Last day of term
Thursday 4 th January 2024	Back to school