



Abbey Road News

Thursday 21st December 2023

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

Christmas Magic

Primary schools are especially busy places in the run-up to Christmas (a cocktail of magic and mayhem, I'd say!) and the festive spirit has been building up nicely during the last few weeks. Our Christmas Fair was a huge success, raising £2355 for the school. Thank you to parents for contributing so generously in so many different ways. Thanks to Glee Club for their fabulous singing and well done to our Year 6 children (and their parents!) who put so much time and energy into planning and running their 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.

Our nativity performances added some Christmas magic to the damp December mornings last week! Children from Reception and Year 1 did a great job of delivering their lines and singing and dancing with gusto! Thank you to staff for all their hard work in creating moments to be remembered and treasured forever. Charity collections raised money for Maggie's (£290) and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust (£150). 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 festive fun to the final days of the term.



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 £72.90 (a daily charge of £2.70).

We are keen to make sure as many eligible pupils as possible are claiming their free school meals. If you want to check whether your child(ren) would qualify, please follow this link. Parents can apply online or by calling 0300 500 80 80. [Free school meals and milk | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Uniform – PE Kit

Here is a reminder of our PE kit uniform:

- White t-shirt (or navy 'Abbey Road' t-shirt)
- Plain Navy/black shorts and navy/black joggers or leggings
- Plimsolls/trainers
- Plain navy or black sweatshirt or hoodie

We have noticed some children arriving at school dressed in different colours to those listed above and also with large logos on both sweatshirts and jogging bottoms, which are not in line with our PE uniform. We do speak to the children to remind them of our expectation and really appreciate your support with this too. Having the children wear their PE kit to school means that they get more time to be active, rather than spending time getting changed. However, we still want the children to look smart in school colours and we are keen that the days are not viewed as extra non-uniform opportunities!

We have lots of spare uniform and PE kit in school and are happy to donate should you need any support with sourcing any of the above. There is also no expectation to wear school-branded items and all of the above can be purchased from various supermarkets/shops.

Attendance Update

We share attendance information with parents on a termly basis. Your child's autumn term report will be shared with you when we return to school in January.

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 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/conditions/when-to-keep-your-child-at-home/). 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.

Leawood Manor

Our Year 6 Glee Club members enjoyed a visit to Leawood Manor, where they sang for (and with!) the residents. After the singing, children stayed a while to sit and chat with their audience – one of whom was close to his 100th birthday! We had such a lovely time and hope it can become an annual fixture!



Year 1 Grandparents Afternoon

This half term, Year 1 have been learning all about toys and how they have changed over the years. As part of this topic, they invited grandparents into school to share some of their childhood toys. Children enjoyed looking at and playing with some beautiful and much-loved teddy bears and dolls, amazing cars and engines and classic games.

A massive thank-you to grandparents who were able to join us for the afternoon – the children had a lovely time and learned lots!

Sports Leaders

We have a number of pupil groups in school, children who are elected to carry out various roles within this school. This includes our School Council, Wellbeing Council, Eco Council and Sports Leaders. During the year, each of these groups will share a little more about what they do within my monthly newsletters. This month, it's the turn of our Sports Leaders...

Dear parents and carers,

This letter is coming from two of the year 6 sports leaders, explaining who we are and what we do. Every day, we create fun games for Reception and Key Stage 1 children and also run friendly competitions for the older pupils. We host things such as Active Travel week, which encourages children to walk, scoot or cycle to school.

We meet together with Mrs Dussek to talk about our responsibilities and how to help children enjoy their break-times. During our meetings, we plan which games we will play and work out which equipment we will need. Our aim is to help children be active and enjoy physical activity, as well as to have lots of fun. Out on the playground, we explain the games to the children and make sure everyone is included and playing nicely and fairly.

Doing this for your children is a pleasure - we really enjoy looking after and getting to know the children. We hope your children enjoy our activities and look forward to what is to come,

From Tillie Odell and Lilly Buggy.

Carol Service

The weather forecast for tomorrow is looking like there may be a dry window in the afternoon and we remain hopeful that we will be able to enjoy our outdoor carol service together with parents and extended family and friends. This is scheduled for 2.45pm and everyone is welcome to join us – the more the merrier!

If the weather remains wet and windy, we will have to hold the service in the school hall. Sadly, there isn't space for us to open our doors to the whole school community but there is a little standing room at the back for some parents to join us. Therefore, if your child has been selected to deliver one of the readings; if they are singing a solo (We Three Kings – children from Year 6) or if they are a member of our school orchestra accompanying the carols then we will try and find a space for you.

We will send an email to confirm arrangements tomorrow – but this is likely to be after lunch as the rain isn't forecast to stop until then. Apologies for the short notice but we are (as ever!) at the mercy of the British weather.

Children are welcome to wear something festive on the last day of term – this could be a Christmas jumper, something sparkly or simply an outfit in seasonal colours. Whatever the choice, it is most important that everyone has appropriate clothing to keep warm and dry – a coat and hat would be perfect!

As part of the service, we will be collecting 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 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. Our Year 6 Councillors had the pleasure of meeting with the lady who started the charity back in 1972. She

explained how proud she was of how much it has grown since those early days – it now distributes gifts to nearly 2,000 children.



Dates

Friday 22 nd December End of term	Christmas jumpers & festive outfits can be worn for the last day of term
	Reception trip to Lakeside Theatre
	Outdoor Carol Service – Top Playground – 2.45pm (Parents and families are very welcome to join us)
Thursday 4 th January 2024	Back to school
Friday 19 th January	Cross country – teams from Years 5 and 6
Friday 26 th January	Young Voices - Glee Club
Wednesday 31 st January	Equals Trust Chess Tournament
Tuesday 6 th February	NottAlone Live – Wellbeing Councillors
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February	Half term

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,

Ly Toom



A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!