



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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Our April/May Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back pupils and parents. We hope you've all enjoyed a restful Easter break and your children are now ready to enter their final term in their current year groups. And what a term we have in store for you all too. With just two weeks left of April, I have decided to inform everyone of the full half term's events in one 'bumper' newsletter.

Some highlights to look forward to are Science Week, Art projects, National Sports Week, Space Week for Year 5, a Mini Mud run, sports tournaments (e.g. athletics comps etc) , the SATs (you'll be fine Year 6 – don't worry!), induction day, sports day, open afternoons, class assemblies, Leavers performances and BBQ and much more. We are still wondering how we're going to fit it all in!

When confirmed, the dates for the above events will appear on our online calendar on our website. www.abbotsfarm.co.uk under the 'Events' section.

On top of that, we may be fitting in some very important lessons along the way. Which is where I'd like to start our review of the year so far.

Governor Review of Learning

Our governors came in towards the end of last term to observe learning and discuss the school's progress with pupils and staff. Their responses were extremely positive, whereby they picked up on a number of pupils demonstrating excellent practice. The governors commented on how well the pupils discuss the school values of **Ambition, Health, Reflectiveness and Resilience** and were able to give examples of where they were demonstrating these values in the classroom and their everyday lives. More pleasing was the observations of how much the pupils were rising to the challenges the teachers were setting, commenting that they felt 'empowered' by the high expectations. I am very much expecting this to now continue through the Summer Term and beyond!

Federation Music Concert

On Monday 26th March, our singing club, which was made up of children from ALL year groups, performed along with the other schools in our Federation at the Temple Speech Rooms. For those who attended, I'm sure you'll agree the pupils performed exceptionally and their rendition of The World in Union was a particular highlight of the evening. This marked our first chance to come together as a group of schools and we are now hoping to add further collaborations to our calendar over the next year. Much thanks must go to Mrs Allen, Mrs Mehta and Mrs Brant for their coordination of the rehearsals and the evening, our parents for their support and a special thank you to Mrs Pearson from Paddox Primary who organised the whole event. Thanks again and very well done to everyone!



Sporting Successes

Abbots Farm pupils experienced further sporting success during the Spring Term.

We had a number of pupils take part in the annual swimming gala with quite a few placing well.

We also had our first group of children reach the regional finals for the rowing competitions – well done to Ollie, Ellis, Zach and Charlie. A big thank you to Mrs Beech for organising both events and to Kasey (our sports apprentice) for his coaching of the four Year 6 boys.



After School Clubs

Our after school clubs will kick start again week commencing 23rd April and once again, our staff are offering a range of activities. As expected, with the hope of finer weather, the majority of clubs are sport related but we are still offering cookery, singing and others less energetic.

Letters have now gone out and we ask that they be returned by Friday to enable us to put the groups together. Where we have more interest than the maximum numbers, we will allocate places as fairly as possible and inform pupils and parents of successful requests.

Class assemblies

As with each term, our pupils will be putting on class assemblies, back at the original start time of 3pm. We recommend family members arriving by 2.55 to allow for seating and a prompt finish.

The class assemblies are as follows:

Yr3 - Wren (Miss Marshall) – 13th June

Yr 3 - Goldcrest (Mr Robinson) - 9th May

Yr 4 - Robin (Mrs Beech) – 2nd May

Yr 4 - Sparrow (Mr Wolsey) – 11th July

Yr 5 – Starling (Miss Tate) – 20th June

Yr 5 – Chaffinch (Mrs Mehta) – 23rd May

Yr 6 will be performing their Leavers assembly on **Wednesday 18th July at 1.45** as well as a memories assembly and afternoon – further details to follow this term.

Open afternoons will take place between 2-6th July. Each year group's specific day will be organised shortly.



Key Stage 2 SATs tests – Week beginning 14th May

Our year 6 pupils will be sitting their end of key stage tests during the week of 14th -18th May. They have been working incredibly hard and are showing a real dedication and determination in the build up to the tests. We appreciate, however, that this is a difficult week for them and so to help ease their anxieties we will be offering them an opportunity to have a breakfast club prior to school. Breakfast club will begin at 8:30am and there will be a choice of drinks and foods on offer to help feed the brain. The pupils will need to make sure that they have plenty of rest and come to school refreshed and ready to do their best. We wish them all good luck.

SRE meeting for Parents

We will be starting our Sex and Relationship Education programme of study towards the end of this term. This will involve the same content as we delivered to the children last year. For those families who are new to school, and for those who want a refresh on what is being taught, we will be putting on a meeting to explain what each year group will learn about and the content of the videos used.

The date of the meeting is Wednesday 2nd May at 6pm



Fundraising

Once again, thank you to our pupils and families for supporting our fundraising events. Last term's Easter Tea Party raised £618 and the Sport Relief week raised £220. This Friday we enter into another very worthwhile cause. As you will know by now, Miss Marshall is running the London marathon in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust, who currently supports her brother with his battle against leukaemia (please feel free to read a little more and donate at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/joisrunningthemarathon). As a school, Friday's Mini Mud run is an opportunity for us to support such a worthwhile cause and promote our values

of health and ambition. We hope your children have been raising sponsorship for the event and look forward to seeing those of you brave enough to take part throughout the day.

The times are as follows:

9.30am – Year 3

10.30am – Year 4

11.30 – proposed sibling race time (may vary depending on numbers – further info to follow if required)

1pm – Year 5

2pm – Year 6

Please remind your children to bring a spare change of footwear, their games kits, a towel and water bottles. Sun cream and hats may also be useful additions based on the current forecasts.

Any further information, please refer to the original letter (can be found on website) or speak to Miss Marshall.

Good luck everyone!

Congratulations

Huge congratulations to Miss Jones and her partner for getting married on Good Friday. We hope you both had a fabulous day. Our job now is to get used to her new name of Mrs Seneschall-Jones.



Congratulations also to Mrs Hartwell on the birth of her son, Nicholas William, who was born in March nearly two weeks late! Both mother and baby are doing well and look forward to visiting the school soon.



Reminders:

School Uniform - As we enter into the warmer months (we hope), please ensure children have outdoor footwear for PE/games as well as pumps if required.

Sun cream - If the weather requires it, also apply sun cream before coming to school. We are unable to apply it at school ourselves. However, if you wish, please bring the bottle to school and your children can apply it themselves when required.

Water bottles - Please also provide your child with a water bottle daily to ensure they stay hydrated.

Haircuts - Please resist the urge, or requests from your children, to shave their hair very short or have shaved lines into their haircuts. This isn't something we feel promotes our smart appearance and is highlighted in our school uniform policy (available on website). Unfortunately, they have caused much distraction previously and we would prefer the focus to be on learning.

From the office:

Dinner money for this half term (23rd April – 25th May) = £51.60

Music lessons = £40

Key dates:

Bank Holiday (no school) – Monday 7th May

End of half term Friday 25th May.

Half term - Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June.

Training day – Monday 4th June

School re-opens – Tuesday 5th June

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher