



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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December 2017 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

How quickly Christmas seems to have come around this year, especially as it marks my first full year as Headteacher. We have a busy time ahead of us in these final weeks leading to the end of the autumn term.

Learning this Half-Term

What an action-packed half term we have had so far. The Open Afternoons were again a huge success. Over 180 family members came to join us in our learning over the four afternoons and some of the creative pieces produced are excellent (that includes your efforts too parents!).

Equally impressive is some of the optional topic home learning (see photos below). It is really inspiring to see how some children have taken to the new half term projects and how they speak with such enjoyment and enthusiasm when describing what they have done.



Achievements

The school have had further sporting success this half term, with our Girls' Football team securing a 5-1 win in their first match of the season against Paddox. Congratulations girls!

On the indoor athletics front, our Year 6 team also won their first heat against 6 other schools with an impressive 230 points overall. We are now awaiting a date for the town final – good luck to all!

We also have the lower school athletics competition and Year 6 rowing events coming up shortly.

Well done also to all of those achieving their nights reading certificates, Handwriting awards, and Best Work Stamps (BWS). It has been a privilege to be part of such a demonstration of ambition and excellence.

Babies, Babies and more Babies

Congratulations to **Miss Gardener (Year 5 TA)** and her family on the safe arrival of Ted, who was born on 7th November. We wish them all well and look forward to seeing him again soon.

Congratulations also to Mrs Hartwell who is expecting her first child in March. We are all very excited that another new 'Farmer' is on their way.

We are also looking forward to **Miss Trainer** coming back to school in the New Year. I know that the children have missed her presence, as have the staff. Her son, Ceallagh, is doing extremely well and going from strength to strength.

On a personal note, I am excited to say that my wife is expecting our second child on December 29th (I know, brilliant planning!) so there is every likelihood that I will not be available the first week back. I will keep the office and parents informed of my availability in due course.

Christmas Events

We are busy preparing for our Christmas activities in school and it all started in assembly today with the lighting of our Christmas tree. The following information explains all Christmas related events and timings etc:



Friday 8th December – Christmas card post boxes in place to start taking cards. Please make sure if your child wishes to send Christmas cards to pupils in school that they clearly write the full name of the child and the class. If they wish to send cards to the teachers they can place these in the post boxes, again noting the teacher's name and the year group they work in. Our Year 6 elves will deliver the cards over the following two weeks.

Monday 11th – Planet Ice whole school trip. We will be leaving at 11.45 so all pupils will need a packed lunch which we will eat beforehand. Those few children not attending will be given the chance to engage in a Christmas activity at school. We are expected to be back for the end of the school day but will inform parents via text if delayed.

Wednesday 13th December – Year 5 & 6 Carol Service: You should receive your requested tickets next week. Please do not arrive any earlier than **6.30**, as the school gate will be opened at this time. We are hoping that the weather will be kind to us and we will be able to keep the event on the school playground accompanied by the local brass band. We will make alternative arrangements should the forecast suggest otherwise.

Friday 15th December – Whole School Christmas Fair: Don't forget that the Christmas Fair is straight after school on the 15th. We will be holding a Christmas jumper day on that day when we are asking for donations for the adult & children tombola, cakes and raffle prizes. Please return raffle ticket stubs and money to school as soon as possible. If you are able to help on the day, and have not already volunteered, please let us know by emailing warneck.c@welearn365.com

****Please remember children do not need to buy a special Christmas jumper, a bit of tinsel will do!***

Monday 18th – Year 3 & 4 Primary School Musical: Please do not arrive before **1:40pm** as the school gate will be opened at this time and we do not want you to wait out in the cold! The performances will begin once all parents are seated so there is no rush. The performances will be approximately 1hr to 1hr 10mins minutes long. Parents will be allowed to take their children and siblings home at the end of the performance.

Tuesday 19th – Year 3 & 4 Primary School Musical (evening performance): Please arrive between **6** and **6.15pm** with your child to ensure they have a chance to get themselves ready and for you to take your seats ready for the performance, starting at **6.30**.

We are **not** charging for tickets for any of the events and never have done! However, we will have a collection at the end of the performances which will be in aid of the **Save the Children** charity.

Wednesday 20th December – Christmas Lunch and DVD afternoon: The whole school will be having their Christmas lunch followed on by a film afternoon. If you have not returned your Christmas dinner slip, please do so asap.

Christmas Competitions:

Art Competition

Pupils may enter the Christmas art competition (info attached) for the chance to win a framed copy of their festive design and a Christmas treat which has once again been kindly sponsored by Aldi Hillmorton store. Designs must be hand drawn and can be coloured using a material of their choice (paint, collage, felt tip, pencil). Entries should be handed in by **Friday 15th December** and the winners will be announced on the last day of term.



Christmas dinner table decoration

Children are invited to create a Christmas table decoration for our Christmas lunch tables by **Tuesday 19th December**. On this day, a selection of pupils will be judging the best one for each year group and prizes will be awarded. The decorations will then be placed around the dining hall for our Christmas lunch the next day.



Office Reminders:

Can you please try to pay all outstanding monies by Monday 11th December.

Music Fees: £40 Autumn Term, Swimming Fees: £37.00 (Full term)

We finish school on **Friday 22nd December at 3.20pm** and the Spring term begins on **Monday 8th January 2018**.
(Friday 5th January is a teacher training day)

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher

