



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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December 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

How quickly Christmas seems to have come around this year. 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 World War I topic was a huge success, bringing together a number of fascinating pieces of family history, wartime music, artwork and historical facts. It was so pleasing to witness the children from both schools share their appreciation and demonstrate such success during our silence on Monday 12th. A fantastic experience all round!



Please see our Twitter page for more photos

Assessments have now all taken place. Children approached them with great resilience and determination. We have been very pleased with the efforts put in by the pupils and will now spend time looking at the areas that each child needs to focus on during the second part of the year. This information will be shared as part of our Mid-Year review which comes out at the start of February.

Achievements

The school have had further sporting success this half term, with our Girls' Football team securing a 2-1 win in their first match of the season against Cawston. Congratulations girls!

On the indoor athletics front, our Year 6 team also competed extremely well, finishing 3rd in their group.

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.

Departing Staff

The end of term sees 3 members of our school team leave. As you know, **Mrs Allen** is retiring and finishes on Thursday 13th. **Miss Abel**, who teaches in Year 5 is also leaving. She is returning to her previous school to continue with her school leadership development. **Mrs Brant** and **Miss Trainer** will be sharing responsibility for the class from January. This will mean that all year groups will have a change of timetable and potentially PE days swapped etc. We will inform all parents of new timetables prior to the Christmas break. Finally, we will be saying goodbye to our Learning Mentor, **Mrs Dhanda**, who is taking up a similar role at Rainsbrook. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment. We wish each of them the very best for the future.

Christmas Events (Christmas letter sent previously and copy available on website)

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.



Christmas Cards – Christmas post boxes are now in place, ready for children to bring in cards. Please ask your children to put all cards in the boxes and avoid handing them out directly. Our school elves will be distributing the cards weekly.

Wednesday 12th – Robin Hood Panto in School. This year we are pleased to be welcoming M&M Productions into school to perform Robin Hood to the pupils. The afternoon performance promises to be very entertaining and we would like to thank the PTA for supporting the funding for it.

Friday 14th December – Whole School Christmas Fair: Don't forget that the Christmas Fair is straight after school on the 14th. 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 17th – 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 18th – Year 3 & 4 Primary School Musical (evening performance): Please arrive between **5.30 and 5.45** 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 **6.00**.

Please note – no photos will be allowed at our performances

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 19th 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.

Wednesday 19th December – Year 5 & 6 Carol Service (6pm): You should receive your requested tickets next week. Please do not arrive any earlier than **5.50**, 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.

Christmas Competitions:

Art Competition

The Aldi art competition entries were due in last Friday (30th). However, we have decided to extend the date to Friday 7th to allow for more children to draw their designs and bring them in. Please hand to your teachers when completed. Prizes to be announced in the final week.



Christmas Table Decorations

Children are invited to create a Christmas table decoration for our Christmas lunch tables by **Monday 17th December**. House Captains and Ambassadors will judge the decorations and will then place them around the dining hall for our Christmas lunch on Wednesday 19th.



Office Reminders:

Please try to pay all outstanding monies by Wednesday 12th December.

Music Fees: £40 Autumn Term, Swimming Fees: £36.50 (Full term) - £14.00 for 2nd half term

We finish school on **Friday 21st December at 3.20pm** and the Spring term begins on **Tuesday 8th January 2018**.
(Monday 7th 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