



**ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL**

*Learners for Life*

*Farmers Forever*

*Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient*

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## Our February Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Where did January go? It seems Christmas is now a distant memory and we are quickly closing in on February Half Term. The pupils are already deep into their new topics and their Maths and English skills are developing strongly. Once again, the topic home learning coming in has been fantastic and are making for some excellent displays exemplifying the quality learning taking place both at home and at school.

### Early 2018 Highlights and Upcoming Learning and Events

#### Young Voices

A big well done to all of the Young Voices Choir and the accompanying teachers, particularly Mrs Allen and Mrs Mehta who organised the club, on their participation in the Young Voices Concert at the Genting Arena in Birmingham on Monday night.



Over 6,400 pupils took part and raised the roof with the renditions of some Stevie Wonder classics as well as the upbeat Pop Medley. Take a look at the amazing Urban Strides ([www.urbanstrides.com](http://www.urbanstrides.com)) for some further inspiration – both truly amazing! Thank you to all parents for your support and attendance – I know the pupils loved sharing the experience with you.



#### Trips and Residential information

Here is a little insight into the trips that have been happening or will be soon:

- Year 3 are off to the Motor Museum in Coventry on Wed 6<sup>th</sup> to immerse themselves in their transport topic.
- Year 4 were transported back in time on Tuesday when they visited the British Museum in London to study many of the Ancient Egyptian artefacts. The children did the school and their parents proud. A big thank you to Mr Wolsey and the team for organising such an inspiring trip.
- Year 5 were in full debate on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> as Timezone took them back to the Ancient Greeks and split them between the Athenians and Spartans, looking at their ways of life.
- Finally, Year 6 will be visiting Beaumanor Hall to enhance their experience of life during World War II on March 12<sup>th</sup> (details to follow)



Manor Adventure - We have had confirmation of dates for the Year 6 residential to Manor Adventure in October of this year (Mon 8<sup>th</sup> –Friday 12<sup>th</sup>). All Year 5 pupils have now received further information and I will be holding a meeting to explain the great experience potentially in store for those keen to attend and more about how to pay/equipment etc. on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm.

#### National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness Week

Next week (5<sup>th</sup> February onwards), the pupils at Abbots Farm will be taking part in a range of activities and discussions about the importance of good health and healthy minds and learning about strategies to help support themselves, family members or perhaps their friends if ever anyone isn't feeling themselves. We feel that the chance to discuss how to keep healthy and develop an emotional resilience is even more important than ever in today's society and welcome your support if and when children come home discussing what they have learnt.

  
**Children's  
Mental Health  
Week 2018**  
5-11 February #childrensmhw  
ChildrensMentalHealthWeek.org.uk

## Congratulations

Whole School Attendance for January: **96.69% Well done everyone. Keep it up!**  
**Congratulations to Songthrush** (Year 6) for having the highest level of attendance in the whole school for January. They achieved a staggering 97.13%.  
Well done! 5 tokens have been awarded to the class.



## Attendance

Thank you to all families who continue to inform us of any illness or unavoidable absence. We are aware of a number of bugs and illnesses around at this time and understand that it is not always possible to attend school every day. That being said, we are still experiencing occasions where we do not receive any communication regarding absences. Please ensure you inform us as we have a duty of care to identify pupils' whereabouts should they not arrive at school.

Punctuality is also being monitored currently as we believe a timely, fresh start to the day really benefits pupils with settling into their learning. A reminder that if your child arrives after the 8.50 bell (start of registration), they will be marked as late. Please ensure your child arrives promptly. If you have any concerns or difficulties with this, please contact us directly and we can try to support you in any way.

Dates for your diary:

**Parents' Evening: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February** (time allocations and Mid-Year reviews out next week)

**Half term: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** (school reopens on Monday 26<sup>th</sup>)

**Easter Tea Party: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March @ 3.20pm** – More details to follow.

All of our events are available on our school website – please follow the link:  
<http://abbotsfarm.co.uk/index.php/events/school-calendar>

## Further Info:

**Ongoing communication with school leaders** – Unfortunately, due to a prolapsed disc suffered a couple of weeks ago, I have been unable to attend school as regularly as I would have liked. This may continue up until half term as I attempt to build back up to being able to be at work. In light of this, Miss Clarke is deputising in my absence, whilst also teaching full time (I do not envy her!) Please bear this in mind when trying to communicate with us and understand that immediate responses will not be possible. I have asked the office to try to give reasonable timeframes on when Miss Clarke / Mr Robinson are available. I am sure you can understand the difficulty faced when staff are absent but we will endeavour to respond as soon as we are able to any of your queries or concerns.

From Mrs Lovejoy at the Infant School

*Abbots Farm Infant School currently has a vacancy on their governing body. If you have the time and are interested in supporting a local school to go from strength to strength, please fill out an application form and return it to the school office by 16<sup>th</sup> February. Application forms can be collected from the office or downloaded following this link:*

<http://abbotsfarm-inf.org/images/Application%20Form%20for%20School%20%20Governors%20AFI.pdf>

## From the Office:

MUSIC: Spring term £40

Dinner Money £10.75 weekly, 2<sup>nd</sup> half term = £51.60

I hope you all enjoy the half term break.

Mr Joss Andrews  
Headteacher

