



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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Happy New Year!

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year to all of our fellow Farmers. We welcome you all back to what looks likely to be another action packed term. The staff and I are really looking forward to seeing our pupils build on their Autumn Term successes and put into practice the skills they have learnt.



Curriculum News

This term sees a number of exciting learning opportunities organised with a variety of engaging topics being taught across the year groups. Shortly, you should all receive a copy of the curriculum newsletter from the class teachers, which will give details of the year group activities for the term and any proposed trips/additional events. We will also be updating the curriculum section of our website (www.abbotsfarm.co.uk) so you can keep up-to-date with your child's learning there if you wish.

Clubs

Well done to all of our pupils who took part in after school clubs last term. We ran a record 16 clubs across the 14 weeks and have tried to ensure there is an even balance of sport and other curriculum areas on offer. Thank you to teachers, TAs and external coaches for your efforts ☺

Our list of Spring Term extra-curricular clubs went out before the Christmas break. Please tick which clubs your child would like to take part in and note the start/end dates and times (as some vary). Send back ASAP and we will try to ensure everyone is allocated once again. Clubs will start again next week – we are planning to include some additional lunchtime clubs to broaden the options available due the pupils' free time.

School Values

Our new school values have certainly gone down well with the children and staff. We have seen a really positive response from the different year groups and children are regularly telling us when they have been **AMBITIOUS**, **RESILIENT** or **REFLECTIVE**. We are also actively promoting the **HEALTHY BODY & MIND** element through or PE, Science and PSHE lessons to name a few. It is very exciting to see the learning at school enhanced by the collective focus on these values – even from our staff and me, especially the resilience part! We very much welcome you to discuss these at home and share your experiences of how these values help you day to day as well.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Songthrush** (Year 6) for having the highest level of attendance in the whole school for December. They achieved 96.86%. Well done! 5 tokens have been awarded to the class. I wonder who will get the January tokens?

Congratulations to **Starling** (Year 5) and to **Sparrow (Year 4)** for achieving the most tokens awarded to classes for last half term. They have been rewarded with an afternoon of activity choice for the whole class. Well done! I wonder who will win this half-term?

Congratulations to all our pupils who received 100% attendance for the Autumn term. Certificates to be handed out this week!

Congratulations to all our 'Good to be Green' pupils who received their certificates for staying green all term. They were all entered into a raffle and a winner was chosen from each class. Well done!



Fundraising

The Christmas Fair was a great success thanks to the all those generous parents who contributed to and attended our event. They managed to make a staggering **£1622.25** profit. Our PTA and parent helpers did an incredible job and work tirelessly for the school.

We really do appreciate their contribution and hopefully more parents will be able



to

to help at future events. We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas assemblies and Carol Service as the children performed wonderfully.

Thanks to the generous donations after our Christmas productions and the Christmas Jumper silver coin event. The total we will be sending to the Save the Children charity is £281.63. We also raised **£357** through selling our unique designed Christmas Cards. Thank you to all those families who purchased the cards.

Class assemblies

This term our class assemblies will be in the **mornings, starting at approx. 9:05am**. Each term we alternate the time of the assemblies to accommodate our working families as best we can. They are expected to last around 15mins (although some staff do take a little longer!) Please note the dates for your class assemblies and join us if you can.



- Wednesday 24th January @ 9:05am: GOLDCREST (YEAR 3) – Mr Robinson**
- Wednesday 31st January @ 9:05am: STARLING (YEAR 5) – Mrs Hartwell**
- Wednesday 7th February @ 9:05am: SPARROW (YEAR 4) – Mr Wolsey**
- Wednesday 14th February @ 9:05am: SONGTHRUH (YEAR 6) – Miss Clarke**
- Wednesday 28th February @ 9:05am: WREN (YEAR 3) – Miss Marshall**
- Wednesday 14th March @ 9:05am: ROBIN (YEAR 4) – Mrs Beech**
- Wednesday 21st March @ 9:05am: CHAFFINCH (YEAR 5) – Miss Tate**
- Wednesday 28th March @ 9.05am: BLACKBIRD (YEAR 6) – Miss Jones**

Parents' Evenings

This year we are holding our Spring Parents' Evenings before half term instead of the final week before Easter (**Tuesday 13th** and **Thursday 15th February**). We feel that it gives us a better opportunity to inform parents of their children's progress through the Autumn Term, an assessment of the support they have had and then inform parents of specific areas we will be working on over the course of the next half of the academic year. A letter will be sent out by the end of January.

School Communication



As ever, we are trying to share as much as we can with parents, whether that be changes to curriculum or celebrating our pupils' successes. We use Twitter regularly to share snippets of info and updates, as well as the school website. If you are not already following us, please do so at **@abbotsfarm**. If you haven't used Twitter before and you're not quite sure how to set it up, ask one of your children – they seem to know everything about technology!

Social Media Update

As with many schools, we are working hard to educate our pupils about the benefits and also dangers of using social media. Work will continue this term in our Computing and PSHE lessons around the subject of using social media sensibly, particularly on **Tuesday 6th February**, which is a national Safer Internet Day. We would very much welcome your support and diligence in this area and ensure that you too are reinforcing how best to use websites and apps such as Instagram and Snapchat etc. at home. If you want further information around how to help you child, please visit the fantastic sites below for further info: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/social-media/> and <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Reminders:

****Don't forget – *our library is open every day from 3.20 until 4pm* for you to come and read with your family or swap books etc. Please come and join us.**

Thank you to all our parents who continue to make use of the online payments scheme.

Dinner Money for this half term is £64.50 (£2.15 per day/Weekly £10.75) - Please ensure that money is paid on Monday mornings.

Please make use of the online payments scheme for all other payments for school (Music lessons, Milk etc)

Music Fees: £40 per term

Please note: Cash/ cheque payments are still received via the school office if needed.

****Please note: An up-to-date school calendar is always available on the school website****

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher

