



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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Our March Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the half term break. I cannot believe that we are now over half way through the year!

And what a peculiar start to 'Spring' last week was. Thank you to everyone for your cooperation and understanding when dealing with the weather. We always endeavour to keep the school open, even if it means making slight alterations to access. Unfortunately, the icy conditions finally got the better of us on Friday!

Learning in School in Feb/March

Wellbeing Week – What a fabulous week Wellbeing Week was. Hopefully you have read the follow up letter sent before half term (it's on the website if you haven't). The pupils and teachers all embraced a topic that is becoming more relevant than ever in today's society and discussed how we can all demonstrate our school values to support each other and bring the best out in ourselves. Although we take great pride in our academic achievements, we also value and strive to develop pupils' individualism and weeks like Wellbeing Week have allowed a number of children to shine. Well done everyone!



World Book Day: Thursday 1st March Despite the arctic conditions, the children braved the cold and came dressed up as all manner of different book characters. They spent the day looking at the impact our fabulous library has had on our reading habits, celebrating great authors and sharing their favourite books and demonstrating their own qualities in their writing.

Open Afternoons – Over the course of next week, each year group will host the ever popular Open Afternoons for parents and family members. They have become a great opportunity for our families to come and share in their children's learning experience and we look forward to welcoming all of you that are able to come in and join us.



The afternoons are as follows:

Tuesday 6th March – Year 6 (2-3pm)

Wednesday 7th – Year 4 (2-3pm)

Thursday 8th – Year 5 (2-3pm)

Friday 9th – Year 3 (2-3pm)

****Please remember, if you wish to take your child and their siblings home after the open afternoon events, you may do so, but not until 3pm.***

Science Club are off to the NEC on Wednesday 14th March to experience the Big Bang Science and Engineering Fair.

Year 6 – Will be gearing up to start revising for their SATs in May (**week beginning 14th May**). They are also off to Beaumanor Hall to put their knowledge of WWII to the test next Monday (12th March). Have fun everyone

Secondary School Places

Our Year 6 pupils have now received information regarding their secondary school places. Congratulations to those who have been successful in gaining their preferred choices. For those who are experiencing difficulties with the places offered, please come and speak to me and we can arrange a time to go through appeals etc in more detail. We are here to help in any way we can!

Sport Relief: WB 19th March

Throughout the course of the week, each year group are being sent a variety of sporting challenges to promote the Sport Relief charity and also develop the enjoyment in taking part in sport and exercise.

We will be '*running a mile*' in aid of Sports Relief on **Thursday 22nd March**. Pupils can come to school that day dressed in sports outfits and we ask for a small donation of £1 or more to support this worthy cause. More details will be sent out by the end of the week.



Easter Tea Party– Friday 23rd March

We will be holding our annual Easter Tea Party on Friday 23rd March. There will be a non-uniform day and we are asking for donations of cakes and tombola items. More information will be sent home shortly from the PTA. A letter should have also been sent today.

5 Start Federation Music Festival - Monday 26th March

Our school singing club are incredibly excited about taking part in the first collaborative music event between the five schools in our federation (including Abbots Farm Infants, Paddox Primary, Northlands and Bawnmore Infants). Tickets and further information will be sent out in due course to parents of those children taking part. Good luck everyone!



Attendance:

Our whole school attendance dipped last half term (95.64%) as pupils and staff were struck down with various bugs! Let's try to build it back up over the next three weeks.

Congratulations to SPARROW (Year 4) for having the highest attendance for February with an amazing **(97.85%)**. 5 tokens coming your way!

Appointments – As part of the local authority monitoring, we are being asked more and more to provide evidence of proof of appointments when we authorise absence for dentist, doctors etc. Although we appreciate it is difficult to sometimes get evidence, we do ask that you endeavour to do so to allow us to continue authorising necessary absences.

Lateness: We are still having a number of children arriving after the school bell at 8:50am. Please ensure that your child is in school between 8:40 and 8:50 each day. They are missing out on the 'Start of the Day' activities!

Office Reminders:

As the end of the financial year is quickly approaching, could we please remind parents to send any outstanding money into school by Friday 23rd March. **Music lessons: (Spring term: £40)**

End of Term: Thursday 29th March. School re-opens for Summer term: Monday 16th April

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher