



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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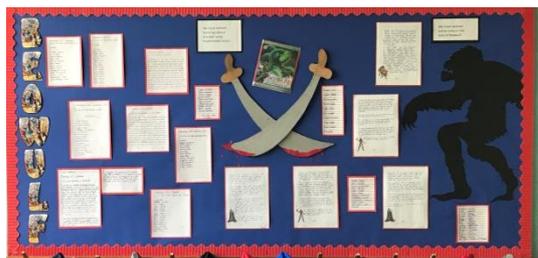
Our November Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you all enjoyed a good half term and are ready to embark upon the busy period leading up to Christmas.

Learning Around School

After 8 weeks, we are really starting to get a feel of the quality of learning going on this year. Some of the presentation and content in our English books across the school is astonishing and the pupils should feel incredibly proud. Hopefully, you all had the opportunity to look at your child's books at the Parents' Consultation evening or during your child's Open Afternoon.



Equally impressive are the amazing corridor displays, celebrating pupils' work and achievements outside of lessons. Please take the opportunity to wander around school on your next visit and take in the fabulous work on show; it really is inspiring! More available to view on Twitter page @abbotsfarm

Independent School Inspection

During October, an independent school improvement partner and Ofsted inspector came to report on the quality of provision at Abbots Farm. This wasn't an Ofsted inspection as such, rather an annual review of practice. These independent reports are used to support the school and provide guidance to governors, school leaders and teachers. If you wish to view the report, please click on the '[School Visit Report](#)' link in the **Latest News** section of our website.

After-School Clubs

Almost incredibly, we are currently running 17 after-school clubs on a weekly basis and the uptake from pupils as a result has been brilliant. Nearly 200 different pupils have attended at least one club! There have been plenty of active sessions outside and in the hall but equally the new digital leaders, drama and art clubs have all started well too. The army of children attending Young Voices is also starting to sound incredible (well done Mrs Allen and Mrs Beech).

As ever, the outside clubs will draw to a close over the next couple of weeks. Where possible, we may be able to move some indoors. Whatever the outcome, this will be communicated to you as and when decisions are made.

Please see the updated list in the **Latest News** on our website.

*Archery club payments are now available online - £12 for the half term

World War I Remembrance

This week and next look like they're going to be a very inspirational learning experience for all of us here at Abbots Farm. Children and adults are fully immersed in commemorating 100 years since the end of The Great War and are very much looking forward to our vertical learning day on Monday and the visit of the Infants to join in our silence and songs at 11am. Poppies and other commemorative merchandise will be on sale throughout the week: If your child would like to purchase one, they can purchase them at break and lunchtimes.



Anti-bullying Week 12th-16th November

Over the course of next week, children will be engaging in work and discussions based around bullying, the support that friendships can provide and identifying strategies for dealing with conflict should it arise. We will also be continuing work on our new school values and rules and discussing how these are designed to promote a safe and friendly environment at school.

Children In Need – Friday 16th November

We will be once again supporting this great fundraising cause. On Friday 16th November, we will have a non-uniform day where the children can come to school in various wacky clothes for a £1 donation. The children can come in their own clothes or dress-up. Here are a few ideas:



- Children can come in Spotty clothes (Please no hair dye)
- Pudsey-fy themselves by showing their respect for Pudsey by wearing his ears, wristbands, bandanas and badges with pride!

The staff will also be baking cakes and selling them to the pupils at break time (20p per cake). Hopefully, we will all have fun and raise money for the worthwhile cause.

Looking further Ahead

Our **Christmas Fair** is being held on **Friday 14th December from 3.20pm**. We will be asking for donations of tombola items, cakes and raffle prizes – more details to follow soon!



Christmas Activities

Our thoughts have already turned towards Christmas and we wanted to give parents early notice of things happening around school. We are busy preparing for our Christmas activities in school and it will all start with the lighting of our Christmas tree on 1st December. At this time, the children will find post boxes around the school to post their Christmas cards. Please make sure that children put the name and class on the envelope.

We are hoping to entertain parents with Christmas assemblies and carols during the final two week of term. We will be sending home year group information about dates and times in the next week. The dates will also be available on the live calendar on our website from Monday 12th November.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Songthrush** (Year 6) for having the highest level of attendance in the whole school for October. They achieved **98.18%**. Well done! 5 tokens have been awarded to the class. I wonder who will get the November tokens?

We achieved our whole school attendance target (just) for the half term of **97% (overall 97.3%)**.

Please continue to ensure your child attends school regularly. We have had a number of holidays taken which can affect your child's progress and how they settle in their new year groups. Please contact us if you require support or more information regarding attendance.



*Those under our threshold of **90%** attendance for the first half term may be contacted to see how the school and families can support each other with improving pupil attendance.

Congratulations to **Chaffinch** (Yr5) and **Robin** (Yr 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.

A Fond Farewell

After teaching for an incredible 27 years at Abbots Farm, Mrs Allen has decided to take the well-earned step into retirement at the end of the Autumn term. She has had a significant impact on the pupils, their families and the staff at Abbots Farm throughout her time here through her undeniable passion for teaching and learning. We wish her all the very best for the future and hope that she continues to be part of our journey in some capacity! I'm sure many of you will want to share your appreciation and say your goodbyes over the coming weeks.

Office Reminders

Training Day – Friday 23rd November. Both Abbots Farm Infants and our school will be closed to pupils.

Dinner Money (Half Term): £74-80 (including the Christmas Lunch on **Wednesday 19th December** – letter to follow)

Swimming Fees: Full Autumn Term: £36-50, £14 for second half term

Music Fees: £40.00 full term

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher