



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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Our September Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New (school) Year! We hope that you and your children have had a fun-filled Summer holiday and are excited by the return to school. Our new Year 3s have settled in extremely well, demonstrating a good combination of enthusiasm and maturity during their first few days. As expected, our Year 4, 5 and 6s have continued as if they never left, carrying on with the same determination and desire to learn that made last year so successful.

This is the first of our monthly newsletters, which are an opportunity to communicate any notices, events and activities that will be happening around school in the forthcoming month. They are usually published in the first week of the new month so please check the website regularly - www.abbotsfarm.co.uk. We will send a text message to parents to alert you when the newsletter is published.

Between newsletters, much of our communication takes place via Twitter ([@abbotsfarm.co.uk](https://twitter.com/abbotsfarm.co.uk)) and via our text messaging service.

Learning this term

We will be publishing year group curriculum letters on Friday 15th September. These letters should give details of the learning that will take place this term in your child's year group and any information regarding when home learning is given out or when PE & Games kit are needed. Please feel free to contact the class teacher if you have any queries. Please also regularly check the class blogs on the school website, as these will show you day to day events happening in your child's class.



What's New?

Since the pupils left for the holidays back in July, our school has been a hive of activity. Our fantastic new library has been installed (along with 3,300 books!) and is now being fully utilised by the pupils and staff. We are planning on timetabling after school opportunities for pupils and their families to come in and use the space, changing their books and sharing in the love of reading (watch this space for further information). Teachers have also timetabled regular slots for pupils to learn in the library and change books during school hours – it really is a special place to be!

Continuing with the school development, the roof work has been completed, all classrooms have been painted, which has really brightened up the school, new carpet has been laid in the entrance and learning displays have been replaced. Combining this with the outdoor additions from last term, we now have the environment to really start to create an even more stimulating curriculum for our pupils.

New School Motto – Learners for Life, Farmers Forever

New School Values - Ambition, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Resilience and Reflectiveness

As a school, the pupils and staff have established a new school motto and four new key values. We believe that these values very much represent our aim of developing well-rounded individuals, as well as supporting their ongoing academic development. More information will be coming out shortly with regards to our values – hopefully your children will be coming up with excellent examples of how they are embracing them at school and at home.



Swimming

Swimming lessons have started today for Year 3 at the Queens Diamond Jubilee Centre. All Year 3 pupils will attend weekly swimming sessions this term. They leave school at approx. 11am for lessons to begin at 11.30am and return to school at approx. 12.20pm, going straight in for lunch

upon return. Please ensure that your child has their named swimming kit in school on Fridays. We do ask for children to wear swimming caps especially if they have long hair as it does help in the cold weather!

Music Lessons and opportunities



Every pupil receives a music lesson each week as part of the National Curriculum. In response to parental concerns regarding the access to the school choir and singing, we have decided to run two opportunities over the course of the year, opening up more chances to be involved. Firstly, Mrs Allen will be running the Young Voices Singing Club on a Thursday afterschool. This has now been opened up to Year 4, as well as the usual Year 5 & 6. After the concert has taken place in January, the club will change to a whole school singing club, and at that point, will be opened up to the Year 3s.

Peripatetic Music lessons will begin next week. We assume that pupils receiving music lessons last year wish to continue (unless you have informed us otherwise). We also have a number of new members wishing to join and once the music tutors have organised their registers for this year, we will send out letters inviting new pupils to join the various instrumental sessions. **Peripatetic Music Lesson Fees: £ 40.00 per term**



Medicines & Inhalers

Please make sure that you read our school policies on the Administration of Medicines in school and Asthma (available on school website / office). If your child does suffer from Asthma we have a school card which will need to be completed giving clear instructions and details of the condition (Please call into the office if this applies to your child or the card needs amending from last year). Can you please ensure that you have sent into school any named in-date inhalers required for your child.

After- School Activities



We are beginning our after-school activities and a letter has been sent out today listing the clubs available. All clubs will run from **3:20-4:20pm (Unless notified of different times)**. The staff will be running various lunch time and after-school clubs for pupils to attend over the year. These will run for half or whole terms depending on the activity. Pupils will be invited to sign up for the clubs as and when these clubs begin. Some are also offered, at a cost, from outside providers. Please complete the form and return to school asap.

Please note – all clubs will start the week commencing 18th September (apart from Tang Soo Do and Cheerleading which start next Tuesday and Wednesday respectively)

Class Assemblies

We would like to invite parents to attend their child's class assembly this term. To try to accommodate working parents, we alternate each term the timing of the assemblies so that they are either mornings or afternoons. This term the assemblies will be in the afternoons and will start at **3.00pm on Wednesdays**. The assemblies usually last for 15 minutes to give time for parents to collect younger siblings from the Infants school.

Our rota for this term is as follows:

| CLASS | DATE (WEDNESDAYS 3:00-3:15pm) |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Year 6 (J6) BLACKBIRD | 20 th SEPTEMBER |
| Year 5 (T5) CHAFFINCH | 27 th SEPTEMBER |
| Year 4 (B4) ROBIN | 4 th OCTOBER |
| Year 3 (R3) GOLDCREST | 11 th OCTOBER |
| | |
| Year 6 (C6) SONGTHRUSH | 8 th NOVEMBER |
| Year 5 (H5) STARLING | 22 nd NOVEMBER |
| Year 4 (W4) SPARROW | 29 th NOVEMBER |
| Year 3 (M3) WREN | 6 th DECEMBER |

Parental Opportunities

Year 3 Parents - We hope that your children have settled into their new school. We are sure that you may have questions or queries about procedures etc and so would like to offer you an opportunity to join us for coffee on **Tuesday 19th September - 2.30pm – 3:00pm**. The class teachers will be available to answer your questions or to simply meet you informally.

All parents – We will be holding the **Autumn Term Parents' Evenings** during the week beginning 16th October (more info to follow). **Open afternoons** will take place during the week of **13th-17th November**, whereby you will be invited in to share in your child's/children's learning (again, more info to follow shortly)

Community Events

Family Quiz Night – Friday September 22nd. After the success of last year's quiz night (where over 90 people took part), we have managed to convince Mr Twynholm to return for another fun-filled family quiz. A letter has already been sent providing you with further information.

MacMillan Coffee and Cake event – Friday 29th September More information to follow shortly.

Kidzone (before and after school care)

Our Kidzone club is now **completely full** for all sessions. Even after extending our numbers and employing another member of staff, we are at our new maximum capacity. If you currently have a place, please ensure that you follow the guidance in the Kidzone policy and contract, and liaise with Mr Issitt. If you do not have a place, we can still put your name down on a waiting list but will not be able to offer you any sessions at this moment in time.

Snacks at Break time

Parents need to be aware of our school policy on snacks and drinks. We **do not allow any nut snacks** and we would appreciate it if parents could be vigilant with lunch boxes as we do have a child in school with a severe nut allergy. If your child has an inappropriate snack or drink in school, staff will remove the snack and keep it in the school office to be collected at the end of the day by a parent.

Please check below information taken from our school prospectus:

Snacks and drinks

*If you would like your child to have a mid-morning snack, we encourage them to bring in fresh / dried fruit or vegetables. **No sweets, crisps, breakfast bars etc. please.** Please note: If you are providing grapes for your child's snack or part of their lunch, please ensure that they are cut in halves to prevent choking.*

*Children are asked to bring drinking water to school every day in a **named** plastic bottle (No flavoured water or cordials please as this causes us to have issues with ants in the classroom). We have water stations in both upper and lower school for their bottles to be refilled.*

Air Ambulance

Many of you will be aware that an Air Ambulance helicopter landed on our school field on Tuesday. This was in response to a neighbour in need of assistance. After it was confirmed that the patient's situation wasn't as serious as first thought, the pilot and his team allowed us the opportunity to see the helicopter and then watch it take off. When talking about an inspirational experience, it has really stimulated the pupils' imagination and ambition.

On our site, close to the bottom playground gate, we have an **Air Ambulance clothing bank**. If you have any old/spare clothes, please bring them in and we will fill up the bin. It is a great charity and runs solely on funding and support of communities. Please help us show our appreciation by sending in your unwanted items.

It also includes shoes, bedding, towels, curtains etc

Office Notices

Online Payment System:

All school payments are able to be made through the system or via cash/cheque through the school office. Please speak to the office staff if you have any questions.

Dinner payments are now £2.15 daily and £10.75 per week

School Calendar:

School calendar will be updated and published on school website – this will be available for everyone to view by next Friday (15th September).

Term Time Absence / Holidays / Leave of Absence

The Governors wish to inform parents that the Headteacher is **not allowed to authorise** any holidays during term time. Leave of Absence forms are only to be completed for absences that are taken in exceptional circumstances. These can be collected from the school office. Please read below the latest information from the Warwickshire Attendance Service (www.warwickshire.gov.uk/pupilnonattendance)

As required by the DfE, we will continue to monitor the attendance of our pupils and, where necessary, may contact you to inform you if your child's attendance gets low. We do try to work with parents and families and understand that illness and exceptional circumstances can impact on pupil attendance. However, on occasions, parents haven't been aware of the impact the absence has had on their child's progress, and without communication, opportunities to support each other can be lost.

If you ever have any concerns relating to attendance, or indeed anything at all, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the library and around school very soon.

*Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher*

