



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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Our September 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New (school) Year! Welcome back to all of our children from Year 4, 5 and 6 and their families and a warm welcome to the new Year 3s and any families who are joining us for the first time. We hope that your children are well rested, relaxed and all ready and raring to go for what looks like another action-packed year at Abbots Farm.

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 months. 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.

Who/What's New?

Since the start of the Summer holidays the school has been a hive of activity. Around school, the old ICT room has been reborn as a newly furnished Performance Studio. This boasts a range of new musical instruments, technology (including 20 additional iPads), a green screen for filming, with furniture due to arrive shortly. We hope this space will inspire the children to express themselves and give them opportunities we previously weren't able to.

The old music room (hut by playground) has been turned into a new workspace for small groups and an indoor break and lunchtime club zone. We appreciate parental and pupil requests for alternative activities during free time and will hopefully be able to offer something for everyone very soon.



On the staffing front, we have had 3 new reasons to celebrate over the Summer Term. Miss Marshall got married and will now be known as Mrs Bostock, Miss Clarke also got married (now Mrs Webb) and finally Mr Wolsey's wife gave birth to a lovely baby boy called Freddie. Congratulations to you all!



We also welcome three new members of staff – Miss Abel is new to our teaching team and will be teaching Year 5, Miss Oakes is new to our office team and Miss Thomas joins us as a lunch supervisor. Welcome to the Abbots Farm family everyone!

End of Key Stage 2 Results

Huge congratulations to our previous Year 6 pupils, their families and our Year 6 team. Once again our attainment and progress was considerably above the county and national averages. This is a real testament to the incredible effort that was put in by all and the attitude of the departing children throughout their time with us.

For a breakdown of results, please click on the 'Key Stage 2 Results 2018' section under the 'School Information' tab on the website.

Learning this term

Our priorities for the start of term are to ensure that all children settle into their new classes well, have opportunities to build new friendships, get to know their teachers and get used to the curriculum and expectations of their new year group.

Each year group will be publishing their own curriculum letters on **Friday 14th 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. A copy of our Communication Flowchart is available on our website to help you identify who can help.

After-School Activities

Our after school activities will be starting week commencing **17th September** (unless otherwise stated). A letter has been sent out today listing the clubs that are 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

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	26 th SEPTEMBER
Year 5 (T5) CHAFFINCH	3 rd OCTOBER
Year 4 (B4) ROBIN	10 th OCTOBER
Year 3 (R3) GOLDCREST	24 th OCTOBER
Year 3 (B3) WREN	14 th NOVEMBER
Year 5 (A5) STARLING	21 st NOVEMBER
Year 4 (W4) SPARROW	28 th NOVEMBER
Year 6 (W6) SONGTHRUSH	5 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 **Wednesday 19th September - 2.15pm – 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 22nd October (more info to follow). *Open afternoons* will take place during the same week whereby you will be invited in to share in your child's/children's learning (again, more info to follow shortly)

Community Events

Thank you to all families who supported the Summer Fair & BBQ. We made over £1900 profit which has been used to purchase the school planners for all pupils and new instruments for the new music suite.

Family Quiz Night – Friday September 28th. 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 a third fun-filled family quiz. A letter has already been sent providing you with further information.

MacMillan Coffee and Cake event – Friday 28th September More information to follow shortly.



Swimming

Swimming lessons start this week 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.

New Website

We are pleased to inform everyone that a new website is under construction and will hopefully be live by October half term. The new platform will continue to have all the relevant documents and information our current website holds but with a few extras. We are working hard to ensure that specific Year group sections can be utilised for home learning support and celebration of different events and awards. There will be a new alumni section for those Farmers who wish to keep in touch, video content of trips and fundraising events and in a format which is as easy to use on tablets and phones as it is on PCs. Until then, our old website is still functioning and should contain the essential information required.

Watch this space!



Music Lessons and opportunities



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

An addition to this, we are pleased to announce our continued involvement in a number of singing events – Young Voices is taking place again in January and we anticipate we will again hold a Federation singing event at the Temple Speech rooms in the Spring.



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 and spacers required for your child.

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 half** 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.

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 authorised 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, we 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.

Office Notices

Online Payment System: This facility is now working. Passwords should have been sent out to you.

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 £2.20 daily and £11 per week

School Calendar:

Our full school calendar will be updated over the coming week and published on school website – this will be available for everyone to view by next Friday (14th September).

We look forward to seeing many of you around school very soon.

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher

