



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Our School

Values:

Courage Tolerance
Consideration Honesty
Creativity

Happy New Year!

Dear Parents / Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to be sending out my first newsletter as Head Teacher of our wonderful school. I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays and had an opportunity to relax and share in the celebrations.



Firstly, on behalf of Mrs Farrell, I would like to thank all of the pupils, parents, staff and friends of the school for your efforts in helping organise and put on the celebrations for Mrs Farrell's leaving assemblies/gifts. Your kind words and heartfelt messages certainly made her, and me, realise just how special our community is! The videos are now on our website for you to view – follow the links on the right hand side of the home page – enjoy!

Spring Term Staffing

You should now all be familiar with the majority of staff at our school, particularly if your child is in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year with us. Even the vast amount of the Year 3s now seem very aware of each teacher/teaching assistant and their responsibilities.

Whilst there isn't too much in the way of staff changes, I do want to bring everyone up to speed with regards to communicating with members of staff/myself and clarify roles and responsibilities for the coming term.

Although Mrs Farrell has left and I have taken on the role of Head, there will not be a new deputy head or any other new additions to the team just yet. Instead, I will continue to be supported by the **Senior Leadership Team (SLT)**. The **SLT**, which is responsible for ensuring that the highest possible standards of teaching and learning are sustained across the school, will now consist of the following members of staff and myself:

Mr Robinson (Assistant Head, Maths Co-ordinator and Behaviour Lead), **Miss Tate** (our new Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) and Humanities Lead) and **Miss Jones** (Lead Teacher and English Co-ordinator).

As we have done in the past, one of the **SLT** may contact you from time to time regarding achievements, behaviour, additional support for your child/children, further opportunities etc. We feel, as we always have done, that a collaborative approach allows us to make the strongest possible decisions for the school.

As with before Christmas, all lines of communication remain the same – i.e.

- If you need to speak to us generally about your child/children's learning or class concerns, please speak to their class teacher either via the planners or making an appointment at the office.
- If you require information regarding events, payments and finance, letters, leave of absence etc. please speak to **Mrs McBirnie** and **Mrs Bowcutt** in the office
- If your query is about Kidzone, please speak to **Mr Issitt**
- If you feel you need to contact a more senior member of staff, then please arrange to speak to me or to **Mr Robinson** (providing he isn't teaching!), who will deputise if I am ever unable to meet with you or take your call.

Additional Support

Mr Robinson and **Miss Tate** will also be leading a **Pupil Welfare and Inclusion Team**, along with **Mrs Dhanda** (our Learning Mentor) and **Mrs Barker** (EIS specialist). The team will work with pupils and parents to support them with any additional personal concerns they may have, both in and out of school, as well as any specific learning needs.



Curriculum News

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. They have all been busy planning another exciting and engaging term and are looking forward to getting started.

Clubs

Our list of Spring Term extra-curricular clubs will be out by the end of the week. 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.

Congratulations

Congratulations to ROBIN (Year 4) for having the highest level of attendance in the whole school for December. They achieved a staggering 98.03%. Well done! 5 tokens have been awarded to the class. I wonder who will get the January tokens?



Congratulations to Goldcrest (Year 3) and to **Robin (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!



Further School Success

On December 15th, the schools' performance data was released by the DfE to the public. We are extremely pleased to say that we have been classed as one of the top performing schools (9th out of 231) in Warwickshire for attainment across all core subjects (Reading, Writing and Maths) and are the only school in the top 10 with more than one class per year group. This is a super achievement for pupils, parents and staff alike and is another indication of everyone's determination to reach their potential. Very well done all of you!

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 **£1500** 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 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, we are pleased to announce that we raised **£386-72** which has gone to the charities, Save the Children and Macmillan. We also raised **£205** 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 18th January @ 9:05am: BLACKBIRD (YEAR 6)

Wednesday 25th January @ 9:05am: CHAFFINCH (YEAR 5)

Wednesday 1st February @ 9:05am: ROBIN (YEAR 4)

Wednesday 8th February @ 9:05am: GOLDCREST (YEAR 3)

Wednesday 1st March @ 9:05am: SONGTRHUSH (YEAR 6)

Wednesday 8th March @ 9:05am: STARLING (YEAR 5)

Wednesday 15th March @ 9:05am: SPARROW (YEAR 4)

Wednesday 22nd March @ 9:05am: WREN (YEAR 3)

Reading

Please, please, please keep pushing reading at home with your children. For those who have already achieved their 25, 50 or even 75 nights reading, it has had a really positive impact on their attitudes and ability within reading. If you can continue to sign and date the school planners, the teachers can keep a log of who is reading and how regularly. This lifelong skill is hugely important and will continue to be a big focus for us this year.

School Website, Class Blogs and Twitter

Over the next few weeks, the school website will be updated with new photos and information regarding the school. This term, we are going to have a big push again with the class blogs to allow pupils to share the exciting learning that has been going on in class with you all at home. Use the link to access the website <http://www.abbotsfarm.co.uk>



We are also going to start using Twitter a lot more for updating people regarding events and celebrating our successes with the wider community. 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!

Office Reminders:

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

Dinner Money for this half term is £67.20 (£2.10 per day/Weekly £10.50) - 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, Swimming, Milk etc)

Music Fees: £40 per term **Swimming** £2.80 weekly (1st half-term £16.80, 2nd half also £16.80)

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

****Please note: School calendar for this term will be updated on the school website****

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher

