



**ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
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**Our School Values:**  
*Courage Tolerance*  
*Consideration Honesty*  
*Creativity*

### 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!

We have an action packed March and half term leading up to Easter combining lots of opportunities for pupils to broaden their experiences of the topics they are studying through organised trips and for parents to come in and experience some of what the pupils have been learning over the past few weeks with our open afternoons and Parent Consultation evenings.

#### **School Trips**

We have four trips taking place this half term:

**Year 4** have already been to the British Museum to study the Egyptian Artefacts (please see blogs for photos and information)

**Year 6** are attending Beaumanor Hall on **Monday (6<sup>th</sup>)** to further develop their understanding of the life of an evacuee during World War II – don't forget your dressing up Year 6!

The **Science Club** are heading to Warwick Castle on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March** to visit their hotly anticipated Science Fair.

Finally, **Year 3** will be attending Coventry Motor Museum to look at the impact transport (cars in particular) have had on the world.

Thank you to all parents/carers who have returned slips and monetary contributions. We truly could not offer the above trips without this contribution nor the generosity of our governors who continue to cap the amount to £10. Thanks again!



#### **Open Afternoons and Parent Consultations:**

The very popular parents' open afternoons will be held on the following days, from 2-3pm. Come and join us for an opportunity get hands on with your child/children's learning and take a look at the fantastic work they've produced so far this year. As before, you are welcome to take your children at 3pm if you wish.

Year 3 – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Year 4 – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Year 5 – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Year 6 – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Spring term parent consultations will be held after school on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April**. You will be receiving letters over the next couple of weeks to enable you to choose a suitable time and day. We encourage all parents to attend these consultations as it is not only an opportunity for you to share the wonderful learning your child has been doing, but also to discuss any issues you may have with your child's progress. **Please note: There will be no after-school clubs on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April as we have parent consultations and also on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April for the PTA Easter Tea.**

#### **Rugby School Choir Festival - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Our school choir will be taking part, once again, in the annual Rugby schools choir festival. They have been busy practising each week and I know that we will be very proud of their performance.



#### **Easter Tea Party– Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

We will be holding our annual Easter Tea Party on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April. 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.

## **Comic Relief: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

In the week building up to Comic Relief (Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Fri 24<sup>th</sup>), the school will be running a number of events to raise money for the fantastic charity. More information will be coming out shortly to explain what is happening and when but a few events planned already are: Pin the Hooter on the Head Teacher, Snuffle Bobbing, Joke Competitions and a Non-Uniform day on the Friday with a 'red' theme. More details to follow.



## **Other Projects**



You'll have already noticed that 3 of our trees have had to be cut down by the council. Pleasingly, we have been able to get them cut up ready for us to develop our woodland area on our site, close to the bottom of the field. We have more outdoor projects in the pipeline and are really pleased to be able to show the pupils what can be achieved if we are creative.

Thanks also to all of the parent who approached us offering to find good homes for the wood! ☺

## **School Budgets**

As some of you may be aware from recent news stories, school are going to be under immense pressure financially should the proposed National Funding Formula come into place next financial year. Our school is set to have our funding cut by over £100,000 by 2018/19, which is the equivalent to the wages of 2 teachers and 2 teaching assistants! As I'm sure you can imagine, most schools will not be able to function as effectively as we do currently.

Please, please, please have a look at the sheet attached and act on the guidance to support our schools – it WILL make a huge difference! We really do need everyone's support with this.

## **Safety outside of school**

We have now had a couple of incidents outside of the school gates before and after school – some involving pupils on bikes/scooters not being careful and others involving individuals from school who have not behaved appropriately.

We have spoken with all pupils in assembly regarding their behaviour and safety when around the school site.

We are hoping you will be able to help promote safety when you drop your children off and perhaps remind children politely if they seem to be taking unnecessary risks with their behaviour – all support is greatly received and thank you to those who have supported this already – it makes a huge difference.

***School patrol Service*** – Warwickshire Police are offering us the opportunity to vote for a school parking patrol service. We are asking all parents to vote as we feel this would further support our safety efforts at the start and the end of the day. Please follow [www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk)



## **Attendance:**

Our whole school attendance has stayed high this past half term (97.2) despite the cold weather and odd viruses floating around! **Congratulations** to **Chaffinch** (Year 5) for having the highest attendance for February (**98.8%**) – an excellent effort!

**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 24<sup>th</sup> March. **Music lessons: (Spring term: £40) Swimming (First half term = £16.80, Full term £36.40)**

**End of Term: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April. School re-opens for Summer term: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

Mr Joss Andrews  
Headteacher