



## ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

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## Our School

### Values:

*Courage Tolerance  
Consideration Honesty  
Creativity*

## Our April Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

We've come to the end of the term and I can now reflect on my first 12 weeks in the 'hot seat'. We can never quite believe just how much gets crammed into each term and this one has been action packed from start to finish. Here is a chance to read about what happened during March and plans for the coming term.

### School Trips

Learning away from school has been a real success this term, with a number of year groups and after school clubs going on some very special days out. Year 6's trip to Beaumanor Hall was a great success and some of their writing since has been truly inspired – in particular their memoirs work about evacuees – a real privilege reading them!

Year 3's comments after visiting the Coventry transport Museum last week were priceless. 'Brilliant fun' and 'Best trip ever' were a couple of comments. I must also add that the teachers said their behaviour was exemplary; a credit to Abbots Farm!

Finally, the Science Club were fortunate enough to go to Warwick Castle's science fair and were duly wowed by some of the experiences during the day. As always, thank you for supporting us in being able to fund the trips and thank you, teachers and support staff for organising such wonderful learning experiences.



### School Choir

Last Wednesday our school choir took part in the Rugby Schools Choir Festival. The event was held at Rugby School Temple Speech Rooms which was the most amazing venue to listen to some wonderful singing from all the schools taking part. Our pupils did a fantastic job and we were all extremely proud of their performance. Thank you to all those parents who attended the event. Well done Choir! Well done also to the Infant School on their first appearance at the event – great to share the stage with fellow farmers!



### Open Afternoons – Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you to everyone who attended our open afternoons last week. Your children thoroughly enjoyed seeing you and being able to share in some of their experiences and the work they have completed recently. We had a record amount of family members attend and some lovely comments from many of you!

### SRE Meetings

Thank you to everyone who turned up to the Sex and Relationship Education meetings held last Wednesday (thank you Miss Watson for leading them). Hopefully, you found them informative and in some cases, put your minds at ease with regards to the content of the lessons. We will always try to make sure that everyone is as informed as possible. As very sensibly proposed by a parent, all children will start the lessons the same week (week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> May). Good luck to everyone with some of the awkward questions that may come your way. Please remember, we are always here to help if we can!

### Parents' Evenings

Parents' meetings will be taking place tonight (Tuesday) and tomorrow. Please make sure you arrive on time for your meetings and I will try to keep the teachers on time also 😊

If possible, please also stay for a little longer to be able to look at the work your child has been doing by viewing their books in the classrooms.

### PTA Easter Tea Party

The Easter Tea Party is this Thursday straight after school in the hall. Please come and join us and support the efforts of the PTA. Don't forget that Thursday is a non-uniform day and children are asked to bring in a prize for the tombola or a cake as a donation. If you wish to help, please inform the office and we will get back to you ASAP.

### School Library Service

We have made the decision not to continue with our loaning of books from the Schools Library Service as we feel we would rather now invest that money into purchasing them to restock our library during the Summer Term. As a result, please can all pupils bring back any books that have the **green** School Library Service band on them ASAP. We do get charged for every book not returned!

### Class Assemblies

We hope you are able to join us for our class assemblies this term. They will be at the **new time of 3:00pm** for this term. We alternate the times each term from mornings to afternoons to support our working parents. Dates for the class assemblies will be sent out on the updated calendar during the first week of term, along with any other important/amended dates for the summer.

### Attendance & Lateness

Our whole school attendance total for the Spring term was **96.9%** and we would really like to see if we can get back over the **97%** target for the summer term. The governors would like to remind parents to read our attendance policy which can be accessed on the school website. Please read the information on the granting of '**Leave of Absence**'

We are still receiving requests from parents for '**holidays during term time**'.

Unfortunately, as you are aware, the government has withdrawn the powers of the headteacher to grant any holiday (Department for Education Circular quotes: *Amendments to the 2006 regulations remove references to family holidays and extended leave. The amendments make clear that Headteachers **may not grant any** leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. **Holidays are not classed as exceptional circumstances.***

Attendance letters will be sent out this week to those pupils who currently fall under 95% for the year. The purpose is to inform parents of their attendance as some may be unaware and to guide them in supporting an improvement during the Summer Term.

We do also have a number of pupils who are arriving late for school each day. Please remember that pupils should be in school **before the 8:50am bell**. As with attendance, we will contact parents if their child/children are late on a regular basis to support where we can.

As much as this may frustrate some parents, we strongly believe a high attendance really improves the opportunities for our pupils to progress and meet their full potential and appreciate your continued support in this matter.



### Congratulations

**Congratulations to WRENS** (Year 3) for having the highest level of attendance for March at **98.5%**. Well done! 5 tokens have been awarded to the class. I wonder who will get the April tokens?

**Water Bottles –** Please ensure you child has a water bottle at school every day, particularly when the warmer weather arrives (whenever that may be!)

### Office Reminders:

Please make any outstanding payments, whether it is for lunches, music tuition, swimming or Kidzone by the end of this week so that you and us at school are up-to-date.

Final reminders will be sent out to those members from Kidzone who we have not yet heard from.

Cost for Summer Term -> Swimming £33.60 per term, Music £40 (per term), Lunches £50.40 (per ½ term).

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Easter Holiday – have fun, stay safe and see you on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April** ☺

Mr Joss Andrews  
Headteacher

