



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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Our October Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our second monthly newsletter of the new academic year.

It has been an action packed first four weeks, in which we've had the opening and first use of a new library, a helicopter land on our school field and a number of clubs start after school but most importantly our pupils have arrived back ready to learn and have started to show their skills and commitment in their new year groups.

Learning Around School

Some of the learning in recent weeks has been excellent. A number of pupils have already shown that they are living up to our new core values, in particular showing their ambition by working through some of the challenging tasks that their teachers have been setting.

Year 3 has benefited from Wasps Rugby Club coming in and developing their rugby and maths skills (and some of you were even able to get over to their game against Harlequins too!)

Year 4 have been getting to grips with their topic, the Anglo Saxons, and are continuing to build on their skills from last year.

In Year 5, all pupils are showing their creative sides with the Amazon project well underway along with their report writing in English.

And finally, the writing and depth of learning in Year 6's Beowulf project, culminating in an excellent assembly performed by J6. All in all, a very positive start!



After School Clubs

Well done to all of those attending our after school clubs. We had a record response from pupils wanting to take part this term so are expecting some great sessions across the sports and the other clubs. We now have a near army taking part in Young Voices; it's so great to be able to extend the numbers to accommodate most people (thank you Mrs Allen and Mrs Mehta). It has also been great to see a number of pupils trying clubs for the first time – keep up the positive attitude.

Apologies to those who have clubs cancelled due to poor weather. We are planning to make a decision based on clubs at lunchtimes from now on to allow for timely communication with parents and to allow poor weather to pass where possible.

Special Mention

After what has been a very difficult period for Miss Marshall and her family, receiving news in June that her younger brother has Leukaemia, she has taken it upon herself to embark on a year of fundraising, culminating in her running the London Marathon in April in support of the Teenage Cancer Trust. As a school we have decided to join her efforts and are planning to run a number of events across the year to support her aim of raising at least £2000 for the fantastic charity.



Three of our superstar pupils and their families have already beaten us to it however and have taken their entrepreneurial skills to new heights by independently organising a cake sale. Joshua and Oliver Wanless and Isla Hithersay organised the sale, which took place last weekend, and have raised over £200 already with more to come!

This is a tremendous achievement and one that demonstrates what a brilliantly supportive community we have around us. Thank you so much to these very special pupils.

Home Learning

Thank you to all of those who have fed into the feedback and discussion groups focused on Home Learning. The session provided us with some great points that we have taken on board and written into our new Home Learning policy (to be sent out this week). As ever, we are going with a best-fit approach as many comments from various families identified conflicting responses as to quantity and variety. Ultimately, we hope that people take on board the changes and the new, clearer approach to our aims and expectations. Thanks again to everyone ☺

Parent Consultation Evening

The first opportunity for pupils, their parents and teachers to meet to discuss the start of the new term will be held on **Wednesday 18th October**. This is a great chance to focus on how your children have settled, their early successes and also their next steps in learning. A letter will be coming out at the start of next week for parents to request an appointment. If you are unable to attend on that evening, please contact your class teacher to arrange another time.

Local Charity – Rugby Foodbank



The vicar from St John's will be starting off our harvest festival celebrations this week. As part of this work, we would like to support the Rugby Food bank again this year. The Foodbank offers short term help in the form of emergency food for local people. We will be collecting items until **Friday 13th October**. If you would like to donate, please choose something from the following list:

Milk (UHT or powered) / Sugar / Fruit juice (carton) /Soup / Pasta sauces /Sponge pudding (tinned)/Tomatoes (tinned) / Cereals /Rice pudding (tinned) /Tea bags /Instant coffee /Instant mash potato /Rice /Pasta /Tinned meat/ fish /Tinned fruit /Jam/Biscuits or snack bars. Thank you.

PTA Macmillan Coffee Event

A big thank-you to all the pupils and families who joined us for our cake and coffee event on Friday. We had a wonderful response for donations of cakes and biscuits and support from the PTA. Thank you all for supporting this wonderful charity.



Many thanks, to everyone who attended our fundraising events last year. We raised the following for school and charities:

- Summer Fair & BBQ - £1925.64
- Race for Life – over £1000 raised
- Easter Tea Party - £606.88
- Matchbox Challenge - £1017.98 (including Gift Aid)

Are you interested in helping our hardworking PTA? Why not pop along for a coffee and chat at the PTA AGM and help with planning the Christmas Fair – **Thursday 12th October at 2.30pm**. Everyone welcome – refreshments provided!

Easy fundraising

We also have access to additional funding through the Easy fundraising site.

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join - Head to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsfarmjnr/> and sign up for free.
2. Shop - Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
3. Raise - After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Abbots Farm Junior School - Rugby will be really grateful for your donations.



Office Reminders:

Lost Property: Please make sure that you name your child's property as we have a large amount of lost property with no names again! Mr Issitt will display the items of clothing over the next few weeks on the school playground at the end of the day. Please check that your child has not brought home another child's clothes.

Half term week: **23rd – 27th October**

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher

