



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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Our February 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Where did January go? It seems Christmas is now a distant memory and we are quickly closing in on February Half Term. The pupils are already deep into their new topics and their Maths and English skills are developing strongly. Once again, the topic home learning coming in has been fantastic and are making for some excellent displays exemplifying the quality learning taking place both at home and at school.

Early 2019 Highlights and Upcoming Learning and Events

Young Voices

A big well done to all of the Young Voices Choir and the accompanying teachers, particularly Mrs Allen and Mrs Beech who organised the club, on their participation in the Young Voices Concert at the Genting Arena in Birmingham on Monday night. Over 6,400 pupils took part and raised the roof with the renditions of some popular classics, including Tony Hadley singing Gold, as well as a fantastic Greatest Showman Medley (including a message from Hugh Jackman!)

Take a look at the amazing Urban Strides (www.urbanstrides.com) and listen to the voice of Beau Dermott for some further inspiration – both truly amazing! Thank you to all parents for your support and attendance – I know the pupils loved sharing the experience with you.



Trips and Residential information

Here is a little insight into the trips that have been happening or will be soon:

- Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Cadbury World and have been excited to come back and share what they have learnt. A marvellous day and brilliant follow up assembly from B3!
- Year 4 are heading off to the British Museum to dive into the world of Ancient Egyptians on **Tuesday 2nd April**
- Year 5 will be in full debate on **Tuesday 12th March** with the Timezone team who will take them back to the Ancient Greeks and split them between the Athenians and Spartans, to look at their ways of life.
- Finally, Year 6 will be visiting Beaumanor Hall to enhance their experience of life during World War II on **March 11th**



National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness Week

This week (4th February onwards), the pupils at Abbots Farm have been taking part in a range of activities and discussions about the importance of good health and healthy minds and learning about strategies to help support themselves, family members or perhaps their friends if ever anyone isn't feeling themselves. We feel that the chance to discuss how to keep healthy and develop an emotional resilience is even more important than ever in today's society and welcome your support if and when children come home discussing what they have learnt.


**Children's
Mental Health
Week 2018**
5-11 February #childrensmhw
ChildrensMentalHealthWeek.org.uk

As it states in the letter which was sent out Monday, watch out for the pebbles and please tweet us your photos (@abbotsfarm) or send to our school email (admin2421@welearn365.com).

Upcoming Events

After a very successful spooky disco, our Community Team are busy organising their second event of the year. On **Wed 27th February**, we will be hosting our first whole school **MOVIE NIGHT** on the big screen in the school hall. The community team have been taking requests for a film and will choose this week. Tickets will be **£2**, which entitles the children to the movie, popcorn and a drink. All proceeds will go to ongoing school projects.

*A letter will be sent out by **Friday 8th** giving more details.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Bostock, who recently informed us that she and her husband are expecting their first child. We are delighted to hear that another Farmer is joining the family.

All being well, Mrs Bostock is planning to be with us until May half term. In the coming weeks, we will be interviewing for a maternity cover replacement for her and will inform parents as and when we have successfully filled the position.



Congratulations also to all of those pupils who have recently received a school postcard.

As a staff, we wanted to share our appreciation for some of the unseen things that your children do and give them a chance to celebrate with yourselves. There may be more this week!



Fundraising

One of our inspirational pupils, Lily, is taking the bold lead to cut her hair off and donate it to the Little Princess Trust charity, who make real hair wigs for children and young adults with illnesses. She is hoping to raise as much money as possible. We will be sharing ways for pupils and their families to donate over the next couple of weeks.

For further information, please visit <http://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/>

Attendance

Whole School Attendance for January: **95.72%**

Congratulations to Goldcrest (Year 3) for having the highest level of attendance in the school for January. They achieved a staggering **98.01%**. Well done! 5 tokens have been awarded to the class.



Thank you to all families who continue to inform us of any illness or unavoidable absence. We are aware of a number of bugs and illnesses around at this time and understand that it is not always possible to attend school every day. That being said, we are still experiencing occasions where we do not receive any communication regarding absences. Please ensure you inform us as we have a duty of care to identify pupils' whereabouts should they not arrive at school.

Punctuality is also being monitored currently as we believe a timely, fresh start to the day really benefits pupils with settling into their learning. A reminder that if your child arrives after the 8.50 bell (start of registration), they will be marked as late. Please ensure your child arrives promptly. If you have any concerns or difficulties with this, please contact us directly and we can try to support you in any way.

Dates for your diary

Parents' Evening: Tuesday 12th February and Thursday 14th February (time allocations and Mid-Year reviews out Thurs 7th/Fri 8th)

Half term: Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February (school reopens on Monday 25th)

All of our ongoing events are available on our school website

From the Office:

MUSIC: Spring term £40

Dinner Money £11 weekly, 2nd half term = £77

I hope you all enjoy the half term break.

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher

