



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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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! And what a pleasantly surprising start to Spring 2 we have had with such wonderful weather. The children have been able to enjoy more time outside in the sunshine. On this note, please ensure that water bottles are brought in and spare footwear is available (in case we get the chance to go on the field!)

School Highlights

Wellbeing Week – What a fabulous week Wellbeing Week was with a particular focus on Celebrating Difference. The pupils and teachers all embraced a topic that is becoming more relevant than ever in today's society and discussed how we can all demonstrate our school values to support each other and bring the best out in ourselves. Although we take great pride in our academic achievements, we also value and strive to develop pupils' individualism and weeks like Wellbeing Week have allowed a number of children to shine. Well done everyone!

School Rowing Team – Congratulations to our Year 6 girls and boys rowing teams who came 1st and 2nd respectively in the town championships. They now go on to represent the town at the regional finals over the coming weeks. Good luck to both sides.



Mrs Allen sponsors new football kit! Thanks to Mrs Allen, the school have a new football kit. Thank you very much to such a special member of our school community and good luck to the first team to wear it!



Upcoming Events

Open Afternoons – Over the course of next week, each year group will host the ever popular Open Afternoons for parents and family members. They have become a great opportunity for our families to come and share in their children's learning experience and we look forward to welcoming all of you that are able to come in and join us.

The afternoons are as follows:

Monday 4th March – Year 3 (2-3pm)

Tuesday 5th – Year 4 (2-3pm)

Wednesday 6th – Year 5 (2-3pm)

Thursday 7th – Year 6 (2-3pm)

****Please remember, if you wish to take your child and their siblings home after the open afternoon events, you may do so, but not until 3pm.***

World Book Day: Thursday 7th March

A letter has been sent out (Thursday 28th Feb) around the plans for World Book Day. This will consist of optional fancy dress, an assembly to share costumes and inspirations and then a day of activities that celebrate a love of reading.

***Don't forget that our library is open to pupils and parents EVERY DAY after school until 3.50!**

Year 4 – The Year 4 British Museum trip is due to take place on Tuesday 2nd April. Thank you to those who have returned their slips and money so far.

Year 5 – The Year 5s will be experiencing life in Ancient Greece with the help of the Timezone team coming in on Tuesday 12th March

Year 6 – Will be gearing up to start revising for their SATs in May (**week beginning 13th May**). They are also off to Beaumanor Hall to put their knowledge of WWII to the test a week on Monday (11th March). Have fun everyone!

For all other year group related events, please see the online calendar available on our website and the curriculum letters (also available at www.abbotsfarm.co.uk)

Comic Relief Friday 15th March

We will be holding a red nose day themed non-uniform day on **Friday 15th March** in support of Comic Relief. We are asking all families to make a silver coin donation to support the charity. There will also be a cake sale at break and lunch for children to purchase something if they wish.



Autism Awareness Week 1-7th April

Between 1-7th April, the school will be undertaking some work around raising awareness and understanding of autism. We have signed up at www.autism.org.uk - Please follow the link if you would like further information.



Easter Tea Party– Friday 5th April

We will be holding our annual Easter Tea Party on **Friday 5th 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.

County music Service Choir festival – Wednesday 3rd April

Our school singing club are incredibly excited about taking part in the County Music Service Choir Festival. Tickets and further information will be sent out in due course to parents of those children taking part. Good luck everyone!



Attendance:

Our whole school attendance dipped last half term (97.23%) as pupils and staff were struck down with various bugs! Let's try to build it back up over the next three weeks. **Congratulations to GOLDCREST (Year 3)** for having the highest attendance for February with an amazing **(98.38%)**. 5 tokens coming your way! Attendance and lateness letters will be sent out for the previous half term over the coming days. If you have any concerns

around attendance, please do contact Mr Andrews via the school office.

Finally...social media

We are finding it increasingly difficult to manage situations that are arising as a result of social media communication between our pupils outside of school. A number of children now have Whatsapp, Instagram, Tik Tok and Facebook accounts, particularly in Year 5 and 6. We wish to remind families that none of the above named apps are age appropriate for our children (13+ in most cases). We wish to also request that you continue to monitor your child/children's usage of such apps if you have permitted them to use them. In some cases, we have found that parents were not even aware that their children were accessing these accounts. We understand that social media is incredibly difficult to manage and wish to promote a continued support from school and home to raise awareness and develop understanding.

If you wish to discuss social media further, please contact the office and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will get back to you.

With regards to a recent, well documented scare on social media, further guidance is available on our website.

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 22nd March – please check your online payments.

Music lessons: (Spring term: £40 whole term)

Dinners (£77-00 Spring Term 2, £11 weekly) – Must be paid in advance

Swimming (£20 Spring Term 2, £36.50 – whole term)

End of Term: Friday 12th April. School re-opens for Summer term: Monday 29th April.

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher