



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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Our September 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New (school) Year! Welcome back to all of our children from Year 4, 5 and 6 and their families and a warm welcome to the new Year 3s and any families who are joining us for the first time. We hope that your children are well rested, relaxed and all ready and raring to go for what looks like another action-packed year at Abbots Farm.

This is the first of our monthly newsletters, which are an opportunity to communicate any notices, events and activities that will be happening around school in the forthcoming months. They are usually published in the first week of the new month so please check the website regularly - www.abbotsfarm.co.uk. We will send a text message to parents to alert you when the newsletter is published. Between newsletters, much of our communication takes place via Twitter (@abbotsfarm.co.uk) and via our text messaging service.

Who/What's New?

We would like to welcome new members of staff – Miss Prendergast is new to our teaching team and will be teaching Year 3, Mrs Bull joins our office team as the new School Business Manager, Mrs Jarvis has joined as a teaching assistant in Year 3 and we have a student teacher, Miss McCarron, who is working alongside Mrs Beech in Year 4. Welcome to the Abbots Farm family everyone!



Miss Poppy – We would like to welcome our new Pastoral Coordinator, Miss Poppy, who joins us bringing a wealth of experience of supporting pupils and their families with a variety of concerns, needs. She will shortly be sharing opportunities for family members to come in and meet and provide you with an additional member of staff to talk to should you require it. Watch this space!

The old music hut (The Den) has been further developed and resourced as a great space for children to relax at break and lunch. We appreciate parental and pupil requests for alternative activities during free time and will hopefully be able to offer something for everyone very soon.

End of Key Stage 2 Results

Huge congratulations to our previous Year 6 pupils, their families and our Year 6 team. Once again our attainment and progress was considerably above the county and national averages. This is a real testament to the incredible effort that was put in by all and the attitude of the departing children throughout their time with us.



For a breakdown of results, please click on the 'Key Stage 2 Results 2019' section under the 'School Information' tab on the website.

Learning this term

Our priorities for the start of term are to ensure that all children settle into their new classes well, have opportunities to build new friendships, get to know their teachers and get used to the curriculum and expectations of their new year group.

Each year group will be publishing their own curriculum letters on **Friday 13th September**. These letters should give details of the learning that will take place this term in your child's year group and any information regarding when home learning is given out or when PE & Games kit are needed. Please feel free to contact the class teacher if you have any queries. A copy of our Communication Flowchart is available on our website to help you identify who can help.

After- School Activities

Our after school activities will be starting week commencing **Monday 16th September** (unless otherwise stated). A letter has been sent out today listing the clubs that are available. All clubs will run from 3:20-4:20pm (Unless notified of different times). The staff will be running various lunch time and after-school clubs for pupils to attend over the year. These will run for half or whole terms depending on the activity. Pupils will be invited to sign up for the clubs as and when these clubs begin. Some are also offered, at a cost, from



outside providers. Please complete the form and return to school ASAP. Children will be informed of their club allocation by **Friday 13th September**.

Class Assemblies

We would like to invite parents to attend their child's class assembly this term. To try to accommodate working parents, we alternate each term the timing of the assemblies so that they are either mornings or afternoons. This term the assemblies will be in the afternoons and will start at 3.00pm on Tuesdays. The assemblies usually last for 15-20 minutes to give time for parents to collect younger siblings from the Infants school.

Our rota for this term is as follows:

CLASS	DATE (Tuesdays 3:00-3:15pm)
Year 5 (T5) CHAFFINCH	1 st OCTOBER
Year 6 (W6) SONGTHRUSH	8 th OCTOBER
Year 4 (B4) ROBIN	22 nd OCTOBER
Year 3 (R3) GOLDCREST	5 th NOVEMBER
Year 6 (SJ6) BLACKBIRD	12 th NOVEMBER
Year 5 (W5) STARLING	19 th NOVEMBER
Year 4 (HT4) SPARROW	26 th NOVEMBER
Year 3 (P3) WREN	3 rd DECEMBER

Parental Opportunities

Year 3 Parents - We hope that your children have settled into their new school. We are sure that you may have questions or queries about procedures etc. and so would like to offer you an opportunity to join us for coffee on **Monday 16th September - 2.15pm – 3:00pm**. The class teachers will be available to answer your questions or to simply meet you informally.

All parents – We will be holding the *Autumn Term Parents' Evenings* during the week beginning **21st October** (more info to follow).

Open afternoons

Our ever popular parent open afternoons will be taking place during the week beginning 14th October and are as follows:

Monday 14th – Year 5 (2-3pm)

Tuesday 15th – Year 4 (2-3pm)

Wednesday 16th – Year 3 (2-3pm)

Thursday 17th – Year 6 (2-3pm)

Our whole school calendar of events is currently being updated and will be ready to view on the school website (www.abbotsfarm.co.uk) by Monday 16th September.

Community Events

Thank you to all families who supported the Summer Fair & BBQ. We made over £2000 profit which has been used to purchase the school planners for all pupils and new instruments for the new music suite.

Family Quiz Night – Friday 18th October. After the success of last year's quiz night (where over 90 people took part), we have managed to convince Mr Twynholm to return for a third fun-filled family quiz. A letter has already been sent providing you with further information.

MacMillan Coffee and Cake event – **Friday 4th October** More information to follow shortly.

Aldi's Kit for Schools promotion

Aldi have just launched a fantastic opportunity for our school community to support pupils getting active and resourcing the school's sports provision. From today, Team GB stickers are distributed to families spending £30 in store. If you use Aldi and start collecting the stickers, please bring them into school. In school, we will be taking on some of the exercise challenges that Aldi have generated. For further information, please visit: www.getseteatfresh.co.uk/kitforschools



Swimming

Swimming lessons start this week for Year 3 at the Queens Diamond Jubilee Centre. All Year 3 pupils will attend weekly swimming sessions this term. They leave school at approx. 10.30am for lessons to begin at 11.30am and return to school at approx. 12.20pm, going straight in for lunch upon return. Please ensure that your child has their named swimming kit in school on Fridays. We do ask for children to wear swimming caps especially if they have long hair as it does help in the cold weather.

New Website

Unfortunately, due to development issues, we are not yet in a position to share the contents of the new website. We are still hoping to have the new website and learning platform ready to be trialled by October Half Term.

In the meantime, you will still be able to access information including: calendar of events, policies, school day information, KS2 results etc on our current website (www.abbotsfarm.co.uk).



Music Lessons and opportunities

Peripatetic Music lessons will begin next week. We assume that pupils receiving music lessons last year wish to continue (unless you have informed us otherwise). We also have a number of new members wishing to join and once the music tutors have organised their registers for this year, we will send out letters inviting new pupils to join the various instrumental sessions. Peripatetic Music Lesson Fees: £ 40.00 per term



An addition to this, we are pleased to announce our continued involvement in a number of singing events – Young Voices is taking place again in January and we anticipate we will be involved in county music events during the Spring and Summer.

Medicines & Inhalers

Please make sure that you read our school policies on the Administration of Medicines in school and Asthma (available on school website / office). If your child does suffer from Asthma we have a school card which will need to be completed giving clear instructions and details of the condition (Please call into the office if this applies to your child or the card needs amending from last year). Can you please ensure that you have sent into school any named in-date inhalers and spacers required for your child?



Snacks at Break time

Please check below information taken from our school prospectus:

Snacks and drinks

*If you would like your child to have a mid-morning snack, we encourage them to bring in fresh / dried fruit or vegetables. No sweets, crisps, breakfast bars etc. please. Please note: If you are providing grapes for your child's snack or part of their lunch, please ensure that they are **cut in half** to prevent choking.*

Children are asked to bring drinking water to school every day in a named plastic bottle (No flavoured water or cordials please as this causes us to have issues with ants in the classroom). We have water stations in both upper and lower school for their bottles to be refilled.

Office Notices

Online Payment System: This facility is now working. Passwords should have been sent out to you.

All school payments are able to be made through the system or via cash/cheque through the school office. Please speak to the office staff if you have any questions.

Dinner payments are now £2.25 daily (£11.25 per week, £87.75 1st half term)

Music Lessons: 2018-19 places will be reoffered automatically. New place requests will be confirmed by Friday 13th September. Music costs are £40 per term

Swimming (Year 3 only): £40.60 per term. Can be paid in increments (online or in office)

School Calendar:

Our full school calendar will be updated over the coming week and published on school website – this will be available for everyone to view by next **Friday (13th September)**.

We look forward to seeing many of you around school very soon.

Mr Joss Andrews
Headteacher