

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2023

ABBOTSWELD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of this eventful year, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support of our school community. Your collaboration and involvement have contributed significantly to the success of our children, and we truly appreciate your commitment to their education.

Please be reminded that the last day of term is Wednesday 20th December, and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday, 8th January 2024, for the start of the new term.

Looking ahead to the upcoming term, we are excited to continue the journey of learning and growth with all our children. Your support is paramount in ensuring their success, and we encourage you to engage in all school events. Your presence at these events not only strengthens our school community but also provides valuable encouragement to the children. Additionally, we kindly request your continued support in fostering a love for learning at home. Encourage your children to access their reading and participate in the Timestable Rockstars program daily. These activities play a crucial role in reinforcing classroom learning and enhancing their academic skills.

Should you ever have any queries or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the school office via email. Your feedback is invaluable.

A final reminder for those who may be considering enrollment in our reception class: the application deadline is fast approaching, and submissions close on 15th January. If you know of anyone interested in joining our school community, please encourage them to contact the office for more information or to schedule a school tour.

In closing, we would like to express our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the coming year be filled with joy, success, and continued growth for both your family and our school community.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support, and we look forward to a fantastic start to the new term in 2024!

Mrs Benson

REMINDERS

To support the safety of our children during Physical Education (PE), we would like to remind parents that earrings should not be worn on these specific days. The physical activities involved in PE may pose a potential risk for accidents and injuries related to earrings.

It is therefore crucial that earrings are removed before the school day begins on PE days.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated, as it contributes to the overall well-being and safety of our students. We understand that safety is a top priority for all parents, and your adherence to this guideline will help create a secure environment for everyone.



I would like to remind you of the importance of punctuality. School starts at 8:45 am, with doors opening at 8:35 am.

Being on time is not only a key factor in your child's academic success but also contributes to the smooth operation of the school day. It ensures a positive start for everyone involved.



School trips are an important part of the Abbotsweld experience. They are chosen to provide our children with opportunities of growth, learning and exploration beyond the classroom. They not only extend the curriculum but offer unique experiences that may not be accessible otherwise.

In order for trips to take place we ask for parents to support us on the days but also financially. We understand that times can be financially challenging and we are committed to working with you to support with this in a number of ways:

- Offering Payment Plans over the term or year
- Subsidising the cost of trips and events throughout the year and across the school

However, it is important to note that our school operates on a set budget and therefore your support is crucial as without your financial contributions we would be unable to provide these experiences and will have to cancel future trips.



ATTENDANCE

WORK TOGETHER

Have above 96% attendance.
Go on holiday during school closures.
Make non-urgent medical appointments **OUTSIDE** the school day.
Telephone the school as early as possible on each day of absence or lateness.



If contact has not been made before s/he returns to school please send a note.
National guidelines mean that we will not be able to authorise such an absence.

DECEMBER'S ATTENDANCE...

★ Courage	97.05%
★ Resilience	96.9%
Confidence	96.46%
Respect	96.46%
Empathy	95.86%
Kindness	95.8%
Independence	95.72%
Honesty	94.7%
Responsibility	94.7%
Determination	94.3%
Equality	94.27%

OUR SCHOOL TARGET IS FOR ATTENDANCE TO BE ABOVE 96.5% OR ABOVE.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE OUR GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER YOUR CHILD SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL...

[HTTPS://WWW.NHS.UK/LIVE-WELL/IS-MY-CHILD-TOO-ILL-FOR-SCHOOL/](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)



EVENTS

DECEMBER

6TH YEAR 3 AND 4 HARLOW PLAYHOUSE THEATRE TRIP

7TH YEARS 5 AND 6 HARLOW PLAYHOUSE THEATRE TRIP

7TH EYFS, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 IN-HOUSE THEATRE PRODUCTION

8th Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas School Lunch: This year's Christmas lunch promises to be a spectacular event, complete with a full Christmas dinner and even crackers ALL FOR THE NORMAL PRICE OF LUNCH! Children are welcome to wear their non-school uniform.

18TH EYFS AND KS1 PERFORMANCES:

Reception 9.30am

Year 1 and 2: 2pm

Please come to the main gate

19TH GROTTO AND CHRISTMAS FETE

1. CHRISTMAS GROTTO 🎅:

 Date: December 19th

 Meet and greet with Father Christmas

 Each child will receive a gift from Father Christmas himself

Cost: £3 per Child

To secure your child's spot at this unforgettable event, we kindly ask parents to make the payment of £4 per child on Arbor to ensure that your child has a memorable encounter with Father Christmas.

2. Christmas Fair 🎄:

The fair will feature an array of stalls, games, tombola, face painting, Christmas tattoos, biscuit decorating, and more. To make things even merrier, each stall will offer these delights at just 50p each. You can purchase advance tickets for your children on Arbor. Simply log in and select the number of tickets you wish to buy for a fun-filled experience!

20th Years 3-6 Carol Concert: Please arrive at the main school gate at 9.30am. This is an outside event so please come wrapped up warm! Hot Chocolate will be for sale!

20TH END OF TERM 3.45PM



EVENTS

JANUARY

4th and 5th Inset Days- School Closed to children
8th Pupils Return
15th and 16th Winter Sports Day
17th Portals to the Past
18th Fun Lunch Day
23rd School Photos (Individual and Siblings)
31st Young Voices

FEBRUARY

6th Safer Internet Day
7th Reception, Year 5 and 6 Discovery Dome
15th Parent Consultation Event- School closes at 1.30pm
19th-23rd Half Term
28th Year 6 Prime VR

MARCH

4th and 5th 2 Johns Workshop
7th World Book Day
11th-15th Science Week
15th Science Fair
22nd Spring Workshops
26th Reports to Parents
27th Y3/4 Play in a Week
27th End of Term



COMMUNITY

English and Maths courses for adults at Harlow College starting in January 2024. These courses could be FREE to those who do not currently hold a grade C or 4 (or above) in English or Maths. Click to find out more - <https://adobe.ly/49ZYK8p>

The 2 Johns Online Safety session – Sunday 10 December 7pm

The 2 Johns are running a session on Sunday evening (10 December) at 7pm to launch the ESCB online safety week. The virtual session and Q&A will be hosted on Zoom and also [The 2 Johns Facebook page](#). This will be followed by a week of online safety messages and advice on the ESCB social media accounts.

[Find out more about the campaign-](#)

<https://www.escb.co.uk/about/campaigns/online-safety/>

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?

Visit www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online.

#StaySafe



ONLINE SAFETY



 National
Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

12 Social Media Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.

2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.

4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.

5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.

6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.

7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.

8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.

9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.

10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.

11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.

12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.

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