

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2024

# ABBOTSWELD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our February edition of the Abbotsweld Newsletter!

This month, we're focusing on the very important issue of Internet Safety. With Internet Safety Day on February 6th, we're dedicating this newsletter to providing you with tips and tricks to help keep our children safe and wise online.

## Why Internet Safety Matters

In today's digital age, the internet offers incredible opportunities for learning and exploration. However, it also presents risks, particularly for our young learners. From cyberbullying to inappropriate content, the online world can be challenging to navigate. That's why it's crucial for us, as a community, to come together to support our children in using the internet safely and responsibly.

Together, we can empower our children to make smart choices online and navigate the digital world with confidence.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding internet safety, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Your partnership is invaluable in ensuring the well-being of our students.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Benson

# TOP TIPS

## Tips for Promoting Internet Safety at Home

Open Communication: Encourage your child to talk to you about their online experiences. Create a safe space where they feel comfortable sharing any concerns or questions they may have.

Set Clear Boundaries: Establish rules for internet usage at home, such as time limits and which websites are appropriate to visit. Monitor their online activity regularly and ensure they understand the importance of privacy settings.

Educate Yourself: Stay informed about the latest trends and apps popular among children. This will help you better understand the challenges they may face online and how to address them effectively.

Teach Critical Thinking: Help your child develop critical thinking skills to evaluate the credibility of online information. Encourage them to question sources and think critically about what they see and read online.

Lead by Example: Be a positive role model for your child by demonstrating responsible online behavior yourself. Show them how to interact respectfully with others and use technology mindfully.



# HELP AND ADVICE

Below we look to answer some of the key questions you may have this Safer Internet Day.

About Safer Internet Day 2024  
[READ MORE ABOUT THE THEME OF THE DAY.](#)

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024>

## THINGS CHANGE SO FAST ONLINE, IT'S HARD TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT MY CHILD IS DOING

Staying up to date with what children are doing online can feel like a challenge sometimes.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to help bridge the gap.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/things-change-so-fast-online-its-hard-to-keep-up-with-what-my-child-is-doing-2>

## MY CHILD KEEPS ASKING TO PLAY A GAME, OR DOWNLOAD AN APP THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT, WHAT CAN I DO?

The easiest way to address this is to research the game or app before you download it, to see what it is and what it offers e.g., in-app purchases, or connection with others etc.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/my-child-keeps-asking-to-play-a-game>

## MY CHILD IS ASKING FOR A NEW DEVICE AND I'M NOT SURE THEY'RE READY FOR ONE It's important to think carefully before getting any kind of device for your child. Not only can it be an expensive decision, it's also necessary to consider the 5 'Ws'.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/my-child-is-asking-for-a-new-device-and-im-not-sure-theyre-ready-for-one>

## I'M NOT SURE IF THE CONTENT MY CHILD IS WATCHING IS A GOOD INFLUENCE ON THEM, WHAT CAN I DO?

Children begin to be influenced by the content they watch as soon as they're old enough to go online.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/im-not-sure-if-the-content-my-child-is-watching-is-a-good-influence-on-them-what-can-i-do>



# HELP AND ADVICE

## WHAT DOES AN INFLUENCER DO AND HOW CAN THEY AFFECT CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR?

Influencers are people who use their internet presence, celebrity status, or relationship with their audience to affect the behaviour of their followers.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/what-does-an-influencer-do-and-how-can-they-affect-childrens-behaviour>

## MY CHILD IS KEEN TO SHARE CONTENT AND MAKE A CHANGE ONLINE. HOW CAN I HELP THEM ACHIEVE THIS SAFELY?

Lots of young people are turning to the internet to talk about issues they're passionate about, to help raise awareness, and promote social change.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/my-child-is-keen-to-share-content-and-make-a-change-online-how-can-i-help-them-achieve-this-safely>

## HOW TO MAKE A REPORT ONLINE

Information to help you, if you need to make a report on an app, game, or website.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/how-to-make-a-report-online>

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SPECIFIC ISSUES

If you want more information about specific online safety issues, there are a range of places that you can go.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/find-out-more-about-specific-issues>



# 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:



# 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.



## FEBRUARY'S ATTENDANCE...



<b>Courage</b>	96.77%
<b>Respect</b>	95.76%
<b>Resilience</b>	95.55%
<b>Confidence</b>	94.79%
<b>Equality</b>	94.46%
<b>Honesty</b>	93.85%
<b>Kindness</b>	93.61%
<b>Independence</b>	93.52%
<b>Empathy</b>	93.19%
<b>Determination</b>	92.92%
<b>Responsibility</b>	90.4%

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

## 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  
Including a Parent Workshop in the evening on 5th March- look forward  
to seeing you there!  
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>

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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/)

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

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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](http://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



## How to start a conversation with your child about using a phone safely:

### ■ Why do you want to get a phone?

Whilst deciding if it is time for your child to have their first phone can be a great opportunity to find out what your child expects to use their phone for. This could be for connecting with friends, playing games, for keeping in touch whilst out of the house or other reasons.

### ▲ What do you like about using your phone?

You can ask your child about their favourite apps or games, what they like using their phone for, or you can ask them to show you how to play or use their favourite game or website.

### ● What would you do if something worrying or upsetting happened on your phone?

You can ask them about the places they can go to find the safety advice, find out what they know about privacy settings, and ask them how to report or block on the services they use.

## Top tips



### Talk with your child about responsible use of their phone

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their phone for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used, this could include things like the phone being charged outside their bedroom overnight.



### Discuss what to do if something upsetting or worrying happens

Give them the strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using their device. This could be to lock the screen and tell an adult, to make a report to the platform they are using, or to block the user.



### Explore parental controls

Take a look at the controls available both on the phone itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

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