



NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2026

# ABBOTSWELD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, and happy New Year! We hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable break. As we begin this new term, we are looking forward to another positive and successful year of learning with our pupils. As always, our school behaviour expectations remain at the heart of everything we do. We encourage all children to:

- Be Honest
- Be Safe
- Be Respectful

These simple but important values help to create a calm, happy, and purposeful learning environment where all children can thrive. When pupils are honest, safe, and respectful, they are able to focus on their learning, build positive relationships, and enjoy their school day to the fullest.

We kindly ask for your continued support by reinforcing these expectations at home. When children receive consistent messages between home and school, it makes a significant difference to their confidence, behaviour, and overall wellbeing.

There are lots of exciting events and learning opportunities planned for the coming term. Please keep an eye on the school website and diary dates for information about upcoming activities and important events.

Further communication and reminders will be shared with you through Arbor, so please ensure your contact details are up to date.

In this newsletter you can find out about some of the learning ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. We look forward to a fantastic term ahead.

Mrs Benson



# Reception

We hope you all had a lovely break and are feeling refreshed for the exciting spring term ahead. We are so proud of how well the children have settled into Reception, and we are delighted to share what we have planned for the coming weeks. There is so much to look forward to as we continue to support the children's learning, confidence and independence.

This spring term our topic is Animals, and it will be a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore, ask questions and develop their curiosity about the world around them. Through stories, fun CHIL time activities and discussions, the children will learn about different animals, their habitats and how they grow and change.

In our literacy lessons this term, we will be focusing on *The Little Red Hen* and *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. These stories will support the children in developing their understanding of story structure and characters. The children will be encouraged to retell the stories through role play and storytelling, helping them to grow in confidence and their oracy skills.

We are also excited to be introducing a new handwriting scheme this term. This scheme will support the children in forming their letters correctly, developing fine motor skills and generally building good writing habits. We are confident that with consistent practice and encouragement, the children will thrive in their writing!

In Spring 2, we have lots of exciting learning planned, including Science Week, where the children will take part in a range of amazing experiments. As part of our science learning, we will also be exploring lifecycles, and we are thrilled to share that we will be welcoming ducklings into Reception! This will be a very special experience for the children as they observe how the ducklings grow and change, name them and learn how to keep them safe.

Our P.E day will remain as a Tuesday. Please could you continue to ensure that your children come into school with fully labelled uniform and water bottles filled with water only. Their books will be changed on a Monday, so please make sure that they come in with their reading books ready to be swapped over. They are now in new phonics groups, so these books will be given in line with their reading level.

We are incredibly proud of how hard the children are working and how much they continue to grow in confidence. Thank you for your ongoing support at home – it really does make a difference. We cannot wait to see the children continue to thrive throughout the spring term.



# Year 1

## Maths

This term in Year 1 Maths, we will be developing children's confidence with numbers through practical activities, games, and problem-solving. This term we will be covering the following areas in Maths Addition and subtraction within 20, Place value within 50, Measurement – capacity and Multiplication and division: Count in 2s, 5s and 10s.

Addition and Subtraction within 20	Place Value within 50	Measurement – Capacity	Multiplication and Division
Add and subtract numbers up to 20 Use number lines, counters, and objects to solve problems Understand fact families (e.g. $15 + 3 = 18$ , $18 - 3 = 15$ )	Count forwards and backwards to 50 Recognise tens and ones (e.g. $34 = 3$ tens and 4 ones) Compare numbers using greater than, less than, and equal to	Compare the capacity of containers (full, empty, half full) Use language such as more than, less than, and equal Explore capacity through practical activities with water or sand	Understand multiplication as grouping and repeated addition Begin division by sharing equally Count in 2s, 5s, and 10s

## English

In English Writing, children will continue to develop their independent writing skills as well as continuing to use Full stops, capital letters and finger spaces. We will also be developing the children's use of descriptive language based on Oliver Jeffers, Lost and Found. Children will be internalising a model text and innovating with it to produce their own versions based on the language and text features and structure. We will be continuing our work on handwriting and presentation as priorities.

In English Reading, we will be using Happy Poem by James Carter as a stimulus for developing the children's understanding of poetry. We will then be exploring fantasy genre through Beauty and the Beast.



## **Expectations**

We are committed to working in partnership with you to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children. In order to achieve this, children need to engage daily with the following:

NumBots

Reading (with a comment in their reading diary)

Spelling Practise

Thank you in advance for your support with this; if you have any challenges that prevent these things from happening, please contact your child's class teacher for advice.

## **Reminders**

Reading books and diaries need to be in school every day.

Children need to bring reusable water bottle to school.

Packed lunches should be healthy and sufficient to sustain them for the afternoon.

Children should arrive at school on time, wearing the correct school uniform.

Ensure your child goes to the toilet before leaving for school.

## **PE Days**

On PE Days, children are allowed to wear their PE kits to school. Please ensure that their kits are correct and in line with our uniform policy.

Confidence – Monday & Thursday

Determination – Tuesday & Thursday



# Year 2

We have an exciting term in year 2 as we dive straight into the new year!

In English we will be getting into some sticky situations and wish for solutions in our own creative writing stories as we explore STUCK.

We will also be finding out How to Catch a Star in Reading as we look closely at an Oliver Jeffers favourite.

In Maths we will be starting our multiplication and division unit, we will be taking a closer look at how we can use groups of 2, 5 and 10 to express both mathematic concepts.

We will continue our understanding of Materials this term and perform scientific experiments applying our scientific knowledge and skills by using the fair test method.

In Geography this half term we will be looking at the United Kingdom, deepening our understanding of the countries that make up the UK, the major cities within each country, the seas that surround them and what makes each country uniquely different to each other.

Computing will see us program a robot and Design and Technology will have us making healthy choices when making a smoothie.

## **Expectations**

We are committed to working in partnership with you to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children. In order to achieve this, children need to engage daily with the following:

NumBots

Reading (with a comment in their reading diary)

Spelling Practise

Thank you in advance for your support with this; if you have any challenges that prevent these things from happening, please contact your child's class teacher for advice.

## **Reminders**

Reading books and diaries need to be in school every day.

Children need to bring reusable water bottle to school.

Packed lunches should be healthy and sufficient to sustain them for the afternoon.

Children should arrive at school on time, wearing the correct school uniform.

Ensure your child goes to the toilet before leaving for school.

## **PE Days**

On PE Days, children are allowed to wear their PE kits to school. Please ensure that their kits are correct and in line with our uniform policy.

PE Days are Thursday and Friday



# Year 3 & 4

## Maths

We will be covering two major Maths topics this term: Written Multiplication & Division and Fractions (Part 1).

In Multiplication and Division, we will be consolidating the core skills of related facts before mastering the classic column multiplication method. This will be followed by learning how to divide large numbers through grouping and sharing with exchanges and remainders.

In Fractions, we will be learning what a fraction is, how to calculate with them and convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions.

Children will continue to learn and revise their times tables up to  $12 \times 12$ . Reminder: children in Year 4 will be sitting the Multiplication Check later in the year – more details on this to follow.

## English

In English Writing, we will be developing the children's understanding of character based on *The Sheep Pig* by Dick King Smith. This will then be followed by writing persuasive leaflets based on the same text. In both cases, children will be internalising a model text and innovating with it to produce their own versions based on the language and text features and structure. We will be continuing our work on handwriting, presentation and grammar skills as priorities.

In English Reading, we will be using *On the Ning Nang Nong* by Spike Milligan as a stimulus for developing the children's understanding of poetry. We will then be exploring a fantasy story called *Leon and the Space Between*.

## Expectations

We are committed to working in partnership with you to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children. In order to achieve this, children need to engage daily with the following:

Times Table Rockstars

Reading (with a comment in their reading diary)

Spelling Practise

Thank you in advance for your support with this; if you have any challenges that prevent these things from happening, please contact your child's class teacher for advice.



# Year 3 & 4

## Reminders

Reading books and diaries need to be in school every day.

Children need to bring reusable water bottle to school.

Playtime snacks are not provided in Key Stage 2; we are happy for you to provide a snack as long as this is healthy and nut free.

Packed lunches should be healthy and sufficient to sustain them for the afternoon.

Children should arrive at school on time, wearing the correct school uniform.

Ensure your child goes to the toilet before leaving for school.

## PE Days

On PE Days, children are allowed to wear their PE kits to school. Please ensure that their kits are correct and in line with our uniform policy.

Courage Class: Wenesday & Friday

Independence Class: Wednesday & Friday

Respect Class: Tuesday & Wednesday



# Year 5 & 6

## English

In English, children will be learning to apply a range of grammar features in their writing through a selection of texts. We begin with the poem 'The Jabberwocky' before moving on to 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty - an informative story set in Victorian times and based upon true events. Children will write in a number of genres, including instructions, an information text and a balanced argument. This will allow children to practise a range of grammar skills: figurative language, similes, metaphors, complex sentences, parenthesis, passive voice, relative clauses and ambitious vocabulary.

## Maths

In mathematics, our focus this term is on fractions, decimals and percentages, including converting from one form to another. Throughout the term, students will explore and investigate higher level application of mathematical concepts, such as statistics, as well as developing their skills in reasoning and problem solving. A quick recall of multiplication tables helps children with all aspects of maths, therefore please encourage your child to practise daily.

History - This term, children will be learning about The Victorians. Working as historians, children will ask questions about key figures and events and consider how they shaped the country, as well as developing an understanding of how life and opinions differed according to individual perspective.

Geography - Children will be learning about Natural Disasters, including earthquakes, volcanoes and floods, considering the impact of these on humans and nature.

Science - children will learn about Properties and Changes of Materials throughout the term. They will develop their scientific skills by hypothesising, predicting and collecting, presenting and analysing data.

## Class Information

Homework consists of spellings, TTRockstars, and daily reading. Spellings will be set weekly and will be tested the following week. Reading books will be changed weekly.

Year 6 will be practising maths concepts taught during lessons on Learning By Questions. Homework will be set weekly.

PE will be on a Tuesday and Wednesday - please ensure your child has appropriate PE kit and footwear.

Please remind your child to bring their water bottles to school every day.





# Online Safety



Please take the time to follow this link and read about a safe digital life for all of our children.

It is your responsibility as parents and carers to ensure they are following guidelines, law and are safe online...

[Safe Digital Life Click Here](#)



# Diary

## DATES

### January

5th - School Closed to pupils- Inset Day  
6th - First Day of spring term  
W/C 12th - Winter Olympics  
W/C 12th Reading Cafes with parents  
15th - Fun Lunch

### February

5th - Play in a Week for Year 3 and 4  
9th and 10th - Y5 Bikeability (previous sign up) Safer Internet Day  
10th- Great Open Door Assembly for children  
12th - School Closes at 1pm - Parent Consultations  
Half Term Mathematics Challenge  
16th-20th - Half Term- School Closed  
W/C 23rd - Numbots and TTRS challenge cup  
25th - Young Voices at O2 (previous sign up)

### March

5th World Book Day  
W/C 9th - Science Week  
13th - Science Fair  
20th - Spring Workshop for Parents and Red Nose Day  
W/C 23rd - Reports to Parents  
27th- Last Day of Term





## School Term and Holiday Dates Academic Year 2025-2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025							
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## Academic Year 2026-2027

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	School days
	Weekends
	School Holidays
	INSET Day
	Bank Holidays





**Be Honest**

**Be Safe**

**Be Respectful**



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