

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2024

ABBOTSWELD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope this message finds you well and ready to embark on an exciting journey into 2024 with us here at Abbotsweld Primary Academy. As we step into this new year, we not only celebrate new beginnings but also set intentions for growth, learning, and success.

We believe that setting intentions is a powerful way to guide our actions and achievements. As we start the new year, we encourage both our students and our school community to reflect on what they hope to accomplish and the values they wish to embody in the coming months.

Here are a few suggestions for setting intentions with your child:

1. **Academic Growth:** Encourage your child to set specific academic goals for the year ahead. Whether it's improving their reading comprehension, mastering multiplication tables, or exploring new areas of interest, we believe that every child has the potential to achieve greatness.
2. **Personal Development:** Help your child identify areas for personal growth outside of academics. This could include developing better organization skills, practicing empathy and kindness towards others, or discovering new hobbies and interests.
3. **Health and Wellness:** Prioritizing physical and mental well-being is crucial for overall success. Encourage your child to set intentions related to exercise, nutrition, mindfulness, and managing stress.

Within this newsletter enjoy reading about some of the learning your child will be experiencing this term.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Wishing you a happy and fulfilling new year!

Mrs Benson

YEAR 5 AND 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 a range of poetry before moving on to 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty – an intriguing story set in Victorian times and based upon true events. Children will write in a number of genres, including a narrative, , letter, instructions and balanced argument. This will allow children to practise a range of grammar skills: figurative language, similes, metaphors, personification, complex sentences, prepositions, passive voice 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.

Other Topics this term

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 changes in industry impacted the way people worked. 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 and presenting data.

Class Information

Homework consists of spellings on EDSHED, TTRockstars, My Maths and daily reading. Spellings will be set weekly and will be tested the following week. Your child can access their maths homework online using their logins. Reading books will be changed weekly.

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

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



YEAR 3 AND 4

English

In English this term we will be reading 'The Princess Blankets' by Carol Ann Duffy. We will be focussing on how to structure and compose formal letters whilst applying all previously taught grammar rules. We will have weekly grammar and comprehension lessons.

As well as this, we will have daily reading sessions focusing on fluency and understanding of texts from different genres.

Maths

In Maths, we will be developing the children's multiplication and division skills, including dividing with remainders. We will also be learning how to work with fractions and will be calculating with money.

We will also do daily calculations to improve our maths fluency and weekly mental maths practise.

There will continue to be a focus on times tables this year. Please make sure your child is accessing TT Rockstars regularly at home.

Other Topics this term

In History, we will be learning about Ancient Egypt. The children will be exploring the history of the people and their culture. We will also be learning about Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife.

During Science this term, the 3 states of matter, including exploring the differences between solids, liquids and gases. We will also be learning about the water cycle.

In Art, the children will be developing their techniques.

Useful Information

Homework will consist of:

- Spellings
- Handwriting

On PE days, your child may come into school in their PE kits. Please make sure they are wearing their house colour T-shirt, joggers, jumper in our school colours: red or black, and black plimsoles or trainers. Earrings to be taken out.

Reminders:

- KS2 pupils will not be provided with a snack and must bring their own healthy snack if wanted.
- Please ensure that your child brings in a named bottle of water for them to have throughout the day.



YEAR 1 AND 2

Maths

In Maths this term year 1 and 2 will be exploring multiplication. We will be using a range of resources to work through multiples of 2s, 5s and 10s. We will also be exploring time and learning to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes, as well quarter to, quarter past and half past. The children have enjoyed engaging with Numbots which we continue to use in class to help the children with calculations and problem solving.

English

This term we have been following our Talk for Writing strategy to support children with imitating and innovating on a story. This half term we have been exploring the story The Ugly Duckling. The children enjoyed retelling the story through creating story maps, making actions for the words, and deepening their understanding by acting out the story. Once the children are secure with retelling the story, they will begin to use these skills to create their own traditional tale. We will also be exploring writing a diary using these same skills.

Other curriculum areas

In History this half term we will be exploring transport and the first flight. The children will learn all about who invented flight and engage in activities based on this. In Science we are continuing to look at our topic of Everyday Materials and the children will be investigating which fabrics have the most stretch.

Additional Information

Please ensure your child comes to school wearing the correct PE kit on your child's PE days.

Confidence: Monday and Friday

Responsibility: Monday and Tuesday

Determination: Monday and Friday

Please continue to read with your child every day and comment in their journal when you have.

To help develop your child's skills in Maths in a fun engaging, please continue access their Numbots or TTRockstar account from any device.



RECEPTION

English

In English, we are following talk 4 writing principles and our book focus is 'We're going on a bear hunt'.

The children are learning to recall the story, structure the story, change parts of the story and write key vocabulary from the book.

We are learning to write from left to write and having a 'hot write', where the children have the opportunity to re write the story in their own time, in their own language.

Maths

In Maths, we are teaching the children to have a deep understanding of numbers up to 10, including the composition of each number. We are working on number bonds to 10, whether numbers are odd and even and looking at one more and one less.

Other Curriculum Areas

Our topic this half term is animals. We are talking about David Attenborough and what his role is. We are looking at a variety of different animals, describing their features and comparing them. We are looking at animal habitats, what they eat and characteristics.

Reminders and Useful Information

Please could parents bring their child's reading book back each Monday, as well as bring in some wellington boots to keep at school.

A reminder, please could parents continue to practice the phonics sounds with their children.

Children partake in PE on a Tuesday.

All children should bring in a water bottle, labelled, each day.



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



ONLINE SAFETY



At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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What you need to know about...

MUSIC STREAMING APPS & SITES

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What are they? 'Music Streaming Apps & Sites'

Music streaming apps allow people to listen to music on their devices. It gives users access to millions of songs and artists from around the world. Popular music streaming apps and sites include Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple music, Amazon Prime and Deezer. Music streaming allows children to listen to songs from around the world in a much easier and cheaper way. This enables them to showcase their talent which would have been very hard to do many years back.

Know the Risks

Explicit content

Explicit content is everywhere online, including in popular music. Children can easily access songs on Spotify, for example, that may have explicit or inappropriate language not suitable for children. It is also easy to erase searches so you can't see what a child has been listening to.

Adult themed podcasts

Many music streaming apps also offer the ability to listen to podcasts which can vary across any kind of topic, from business and health to comedy and relationships. Again, children could be exposed to content which is more adult themed or contains age-inappropriate language.

Chatting to strangers

Some music apps, like Playlist, want to make music a more social experience by finding others who share the same musical tastes and will allow users to join group chats where they listen to a playlist together in real time. This could open up your child to talking to strangers online.

Safety Tips

Use child friendly apps

Many music streaming services are made just for children. For instance, the Spotify kids app provides parents with control over what their children listen to and all the content is family friendly and fun for children to explore.

18+ Turn off explicit content

Most of the major music streaming apps will provide the option to turn off explicit material to make sure the music is completely clean. Some services even offer an option to lock the content censoring settings with a password, so your child can't switch it back.

Implement privacy controls

Check the privacy setting of your child's app. Ensure that whichever app or site they choose to stream music, the settings are set to be private. This way they can only share the music they are listening too with friends and family and can't engage in conversation with strangers.

Offering Support

Explore apps yourself

If your child insists on wanting to use a music streaming app then be part of the journey with them. Take the time to understand which apps they prefer to use and why they want to use it. Find out how to use the app yourself and understand what they could be exposed to and how to ensure they get the most of it in a safe manner.

Regularly check-in

Have regular conversations with your child about what they are listening to and how they are feeling. If they do hear explicit music or content that makes them feel uncomfortable, let them know that they can always talk to you and discuss what they've heard and what it means.

Our Expert Parven Kaur



Parven Kaur is social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks; a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

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