

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2023

ABBOTSWELD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Parents and Carers of Abbotsweld,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the second part of the autumn term. We are thrilled to share with you some of the exciting happenings at Abbotsweld over the past weeks, marking a successful beginning to the half term.

Many children embarked on thrilling trips to the cinema, where they not only enjoyed some fantastic films but also learned valuable lessons in storytelling and creativity. The joy on their faces was truly heartwarming!

Year 1 and 2, in the spirit of experiential learning, had the opportunity to explore a local church. We believe that hands-on experiences like these contribute significantly to their holistic development.

We are incredibly proud of our young athletes who represented our school in various sporting fixtures. Their sportsmanship, teamwork, and dedication have been commendable. Our children showcased not only their athletic abilities but also their commitment to fair play and cooperation.

As we dive into the latter part of the term, we want to assure you that there is much more excitement to come. The festive season is just around the corner, and we have planned a series of engaging activities to celebrate. We invite all parents to join us at the Mathematics Cafe and winter workshops, where you can witness firsthand the incredible learning experiences your children are enjoying. Additionally, mark your calendars for our upcoming carol concert and productions – moments that promise to be filled with joy, laughter, and the spirit of the season.

Your ongoing support is invaluable, and we look forward to celebrating these special moments with you. As partners in your child's education, we encourage you to engage with the school community, share in the joy of their accomplishments, and be part of the memories.

Here's to a wonderful and festive season ahead!

Warm regards,
Mrs Benson

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.



THIS MONTH'S ATTENDANCE...

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK FOR SOME CLASSES HAS NOT BEEN AT 96% 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/)

Kindness	100%
Courage	98.98%
Responsibility	96.57%
Honesty	96.5%
Respect	96.04%
Resilience	94.01%
Determination	93.65%
Confidence	93.22%
Independence	92.86%
Empathy	92.86%
Equality	92.63%



EVENTS

24TH YEARS 1-4 CINEWORLD TRIP

28TH MATHEMATICS CAFÉ AT 3.15PM FOR RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 (PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE PLAYGROUND GATE)

29TH MATHEMATICS CAFÉ AT 3.15PM FOR YEAR 3, YEAR 4, YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 (PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE PLAYGROUND GATE)

DECEMBER

1ST WINTER WORKSHOPS:

RECEPTION - 9:15 - 10AM

YEARS 1 AND 2 - 10:15 - 11AM

YEARS 3 AND 4 - 1:30 - 2:15PM

YEARS 5 AND 6 - 2:30 - 3:15PM

PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE MAIN GATE FOR THE SCHOOL OFFICE

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

18TH EYFS AND KS1 PERFORMANCES:

RECEPTION 9.30AM

YEAR 1 AND 2: 2PM

PLEASE COME TO THE MAIN GATE

19TH GROTTO AND CHRISTMAS FETE

20TH YEARS 3-6 CAROL CONCERT 9.30AM

20TH END OF TERM 3.45PM



ONLINE SAFETY



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

THREADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Threads is currently the number one trending social media app. Developed by Meta, the company behind Instagram and Facebook, Threads is a clear rival of Twitter (now known as X) in that it's a text-based conversation platform which allows posts of up to 500 characters, with the option to include links, photos and short videos. Threads is connected to a user's existing Instagram account, which lets people get started on this new app straight away: their followers and favourite creators will be imported from Instagram to their freshly created Threads account.

DIFFERING OPINIONS

Meta claim they will encourage friendly, positive engagements but haven't specified how they plan to moderate this. As we have already seen on the likes of Twitter, Facebook and so forth, any app where users can talk freely about topics meaningful to them also contains the possibility of offence being caused or hatred being spread.

ENDLESS SCROLLING

Threads doesn't currently have the facility to search for content – only for other users. Someone's feed, therefore, is made up of either threads from people they follow or content that Meta's algorithms have recommended. This could result in users absent-mindedly scrolling for long periods of time through nothing of particular interest, simply in search of that feeling of connectedness.

ACCOUNT DELETION IS COMPLEX

As Threads is linked to a user's Instagram account, it's comparatively tricky for someone to completely remove their Threads profile without automatically deleting their Instagram as well. Most 'insta' users, having spent considerable time building up a bank of posts and followers, will absolutely not want to lose them and could therefore feel pressured into keeping their Threads account active.

OPEN NETWORKING PROTOCOLS

Reportedly, Meta's plan is for Threads to be compatible with ActivityPub, which will allow users to connect and share content more easily across different apps. If your Threads account is set to 'public', therefore, your posts would be accessible from other linked apps. What's more, people using these compatible apps would be able to interact with Threads users without needing an account.

DATA COLLECTION

In Threads' privacy policy, Meta states that certain data about users will be collected and linked to that person's identity, including details relating to (among other things) health and fitness, financial information, browsing history, usage data, purchases, location and contacts. This can paint a very detailed picture of a person's life, and Meta does not explain why it needs all this information.

POTENTIAL FOR EXCESSIVE TRACKING

Its tracking of every interaction, engagement and activity gives the impression of Threads being a sophisticated data-collection tool. There are no adverts on the platform right now, but – given the sheer volume of information being gathered and Meta's history of selling data for advertising purposes – it may not be long before ads start appearing on young people's Threads feeds.

Advice for Parents & Carers

READ THE SMALL PRINT

Privacy policies for apps are usually long and probably the last thing young people read (if at all) when signing up for a trending new platform. However, we'd advise parents and carers to take time to look through Threads' policy and see if they agree with their child's data being collected. Think critically about why Meta needs all that personal information, where it goes and what's done with it.

HIDE THE LIKES COUNT

Research has shown that young users often feel anxiety over how many likes they receive for their social media posts – and question whether this reflects their real-world popularity. Through the settings menu, Threads allows users to hide the likes count on their (and others') posts. While your child's posts won't display an exact number of likes, they'll still be able to see who did like their post.

FILTER OUT OFFENSIVE WORDS

Like Instagram, Threads has an option to hide replies that contain offensive words, phrases or emojis. These are predetermined by Meta, but you can also customise the list with terms that you deem offensive or which you don't want your child to read. Usefully, there's a crossover between the two apps, so words that you select to screen out on Instagram will also be hidden on Threads.

GO PRIVATE, AND STAY ALERT

Even if your child's Instagram account is already set to private, they'll need to select this option again in Threads (it's one of the first things the app asks at sign up). You can also edit who can mention them in a comment. Try to keep a regular eye on your child's account: as Threads' popularity and number of features increases, so will opportunities for potentially harmful content to slip through the net.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/jul/11/threads-app-privacy-user-data-meta-policy> | <https://time.com/6292586/privacy-concerns-threads-meta/> | <https://about.fb.com/news/2023/07/introducing-threads-new-app-text-sharing/>



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