



NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2025

ABBOTSWELD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Welcome Back to a New School Year!

We are delighted to welcome everyone back after the summer break and are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and achievement together. Last year was a fantastic one for our school, filled with memorable moments, impressive achievements, and the continued development of our children both academically and personally. We look forward to building on this success as we move into the year ahead.

It has been a real pleasure to see our former pupils—now Year 7s—returning to visit. They have spoken with pride about how well they are settling into secondary school, which is a wonderful reflection of the solid foundations they built here.

A very special welcome goes to our new Reception children and their families. They have handled the transition into school brilliantly, showing resilience, curiosity, and enthusiasm. The children are now attending full time and are already becoming a valued part of our school community.

As a school, we are proud of the values we share. We remind everyone of our simple but important rules: Be Safe, Be Honest, Be Respectful. Already this term, we are seeing these values displayed in classrooms, on the playground, and in the way our pupils support one another.

This year, we have exciting plans to further enrich the curriculum, strengthen our links with families and the wider community, and ensure that every child continues to thrive. Over the coming weeks, we will share more about our priorities and the opportunities that lie ahead.

In this newsletter, you will also hear from each phase about the learning for this term, giving you an insight into the topics and experiences your children will be enjoying. We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year and celebrating the successes—big and small—of every child in our school.

Mrs Benson



Reception

Physical development

As the children start school, we will be focussing on their physical development. This is a prime area of the EYFS. We will be doing lots of outdoor activities like climbing, games and making big movements. This strengthens the children's gross motor skills.

We will also be working on the children's fine motor skills to strengthen their muscles in their hands and fingers, by completing fun activities each morning and taking part in playdough disco each day. This will support them to hold a pencil and a pair of scissors correctly.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our topic for Autumn Term 1 is 'All about me'. We will be talking about families, ourselves and how we are similar and different to others. This topic supports the children settling into the school environment and promotes their PSED development. We would love to see photographs of your family and who lives in your house.

Our topic for Autumn Term 2 is 'People who help us'. We will be learning about a wide variety of jobs and inviting parents in to share about what they do.

Communication and language

In Autumn Term, we will be focussing on promoting high quality language. We encourage and work with the children to speak politely and in full sentences.

We work on developing the children's confidence speaking in front of their peers and using a wide range of vocabulary.

Class Information

In Autumn Term 1, we are focussing on getting your children as settled as possible into the school environment. We will be doing a baseline assessment on all children to help us get to know them, as they begin their amazing learning journey.

Please could we kindly ask that the children bring a labelled bottle of water to school every day.

All children's belongings need to be clearly labelled with their name. If anything was to get lost, this really helps to relocate it!

The children will have PE on Tuesdays each week, so please send them into school on a Tuesday in their correct PE kit. Any earrings need to be taken out at home, as we cannot do this in school and they are unable to join in if wearing them.

We can't wait to get to know your children!



Year 1

Maths:

In Maths in Autumn term, year 1 will be exploring number and place value to 10 and 20. We will be deepening our understanding of composition of numbers to 10 and 20, as well as ordering numbers, comparing numbers and representing different amounts. We then move on to exploring addition and subtraction within 10 where we will be learning about number bonds to 10, fact families and exploring different ways of adding and subtracting. Our final unit in Maths this term is measuring length and height and properties of shape which will cover 2D and 3D shapes.

English:

To begin year 1 in writing, will be exploring the traditional tale of Little Red Riding Hood. During this unit we will be imitating the story through actions, images and verbally. Once the children have learnt the story well, we will begin to retell the story in writing concentrating on ensuring full stops, capital letter and finger spaces are consistently used. In Reading, we will be introducing the story the Lion Inside where the children will learn the story verbally and then begin to develop their comprehension skills by retrieving information from the text.

Year 1 will continue daily phonics sessions where they develop their word reading skills through learning sounds and decoding words.

Important Information:

Determination class and Confidence class PE days will be Tuesdays and Thursdays. On PE days, ensure children come into school in their PE kits. Please make sure they are wearing the correct coloured T-shirt, joggers, jumper in our school colours: black, and black plimsoles or trainers.

In year 1 homework consists of daily reading at home, weekly spellings and numbots. You will receive a numbots log in and your throughout be sent home with their weekly spellings on a Friday.

Other reminders:

- Please ensure your child brings in their phonics book and reading record every day as they will be reading to adults in school throughout the week.
- Please ensure that your child brings in a named bottle of water for them to have throughout the day.
- Please make sure you child's jumper and cardigan has their name in it to avoid them getting lost.



Year 2

English & Reading:

This Autumn term we will be exploring the text *Dogger* by Shirley Hughes, which the children will be familiar with from year one when they delved into the original text during their Reading classes. We will be paying close attention to our use of description when diving into this text.

The next text we will be discovering in both reading and writing is *Not now, Bernard* by David McKee, where we will be focusing on the story's characters and the students will have the opportunity to explore their own character creations in our writing.

We will be looking at how to structure openings and endings to stories, while exploring Julia Donaldson's *The Smartest Giant in Town*, as well as discovering the features of a non-fiction text in writing.

In Reading sessions, we will continue the Autumn term with our non-fiction text *Everyday Materials* by Peter Riley and watch our main character get into quite a pickle in *Stuck* written by Oliver Jeffers.

Maths:

In Autumn term we will be exploring Place Value, addition and subtraction, number facts, their relationships and the written methods, as well as the properties of shape followed by our measurement unit of Money. We will be continuing our Mastering Numbers work and our proficiency in our daily calculations.

PE Days

Responsibility : Thursday and Friday

Perseverance : Thursday and Friday

In year 2 homework consists of daily reading at home, weekly spellings and numbots. You will receive a numbots log in and your throughout be sent home with their weekly spellings on a Friday!

We have an exciting term ahead and Miss Russell and Ms Bradley cannot wait to get started!



Key Stage 2

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.

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.



Year 3 and 4

Maths

In Year 3, the children will be learning to recognise the value of each digit in three-digit numbers and how to compare and order these numbers effectively. They will then move to numbers up to 1000 and counting in 50s and 100s. Additionally, they will strengthen their addition and subtraction skills with a focus on mental strategies and written methods, ensuring they can tackle calculations confidently.

Meanwhile, for our Year 4 learners, we will build on this foundation. They will expand their understanding of larger numbers, moving up to 10,000. We will encourage them to use place value to assist in their calculations, including adding and subtracting four-digit numbers. They'll engage in problem-solving activities that promote logical thinking.

For both year groups, children will be learning and revising their times tables up to 12 x 12.

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 learning to write a fantasy story based on The Midnight Fair. Children will be internalising a model text and innovating with it to produce their own versions based on the language and text structures. We will be focusing on handwriting, presentation and grammar skills as initial priorities.

In English Reading, we will be using Stone Age Boy as a stimulus for developing the children's understanding of text, language and author intent.

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: Wednesday & Friday

Independence Class: Wednesday & Friday

Respect Class: Tuesday & Wednesday



Year 5 and 6

Maths

In mathematics, our focus this term is on number and place value. Children will read, write, compare, order and partition numbers to 10,000,000 in a variety of ways. Throughout the term, students will explore and investigate higher-level application of mathematical concepts, finding equivalences between fractions, decimals and percentages, as well as developing their skills in reasoning and problem solving.

Times tables will be tested weekly—please practise these frequently with your child on TTRockstars.

English

In reading, children will be exploring and deepening their understanding of an engaging text, 'The Boy at the back of the Class' by Onjali Q. Raúf. Using the book as a writing stimulus, children will write in various genres, which will allow them to practise and apply a range of grammar skills: figurative language, similes, metaphors, personification, complex sentences, prepositions, passive voice and ambitious vocabulary.

Spellings will be sent home weekly and practised daily in school. Please support your child with learning the different spelling rules.

Class PE days:

- Resilience – Tuesday and Wednesday
- Empathy – Tuesday and Wednesday
- Equality – Monday and Wednesday



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