



NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2026

ABBOTSWELD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Welcome back to a brand-new school year!
We hope you have all enjoyed a restful and happy summer. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school, and we are looking forward to an exciting year of learning, growing and achieving together. A special welcome to those joining our school community this year.

This year, our focus is precision. We want our children to take pride in everything they do — being precise in their thinking, their learning, their choices and the way they treat others.
Precision is about paying attention to the details, taking our time to get things right and always striving to do our very best. We will be encouraging everyone to be thoughtful, purposeful and proud of their work.

Our School Rules

- Be Honest.
- Be Safe.
- Be Respectful.

These rules help us create a school where every child feels valued, secure and ready to learn. It supports our overall vision of everyone finding a Sense of SELF.

Updates

We are particularly excited to see the continued development of OPAL across our school. Our playtimes and lunchtimes are such an important part of the school day, giving children opportunities to be active, creative, imaginative and independent. We are also delighted with our refurbished EYFS area, which provides our youngest children with an engaging and stimulating environment in which to learn and explore. We are excited to see the children making the most of the new and improved spaces and resources as they begin their school journey with us.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.
Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

Mrs Benson
Headteacher



Mobile Free School

We are proud to be a mobile phone free school and ask for the support of all our families in maintaining this important approach.

To help create a safe, calm and focused environment for our children, no child or adult should use a mobile phone anywhere on the school site, including in the playground, at drop-off and collection times.

It is consistent with the principles of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026, which places safeguarding at the heart of school life, and with the Department for Education's statutory guidance that schools should be mobile-phone-free environments by default. Keeping them away while on school premises helps us to protect children's privacy and wellbeing, reduce distractions and ensure that everyone can be fully present and engaged.

Thank you for supporting us in making our school a safe, respectful and phone-free environment for everyone.

Mobile phones during productions will continue to be able to be used, ensuring that all adhere to the privacy guidelines shared at the beginning.

Arriving for the school day

The school doors open at 8:35am and close promptly at 8:45am. Please ensure that your child arrives at school before 8:45am, ready to start the school day on time. Any child arriving after 8:45am will be late. If you do arrive after this time, please come to the Dining Hall doors, where your child will be signed in.

Thank you for your support in helping us ensure that children start their day calmly, safely and ready to learn.



School Events

2026-2027

Dates below are subject to change and not exhaustive, notice will be given of any changes and additions

Autumn Term Events

September

1st and 2nd Inset Day- School closed to children
3rd First Day of Term
8th Meet the Teacher - 3pm
10th Mind in West Essex Coffee Morning
17th Tower Of London Y5 and 6 Trip
23rd Phonics Workshop - Year 1 & 2 - 3pm
25th Coffee Morning For Parents - Meet the support team - 9am
25th European Day of Languages
30th 2 Johns Internet Safety Workshop (via Zoom) - 8pm - 9.30pm

October

1st Free Lunch for all
2nd Class Name Day
2nd Harvest Festival
6th Technology Workshops
5th-9th Writing and Oracy Cafes with parents
7th New to EYFS Open Morning 10am
12th - 16th Recycle Week
15th Parent Consultations- school closes at 1pm
16th Poetry or Nursery Rhyme recitals sent home
16th Last Day of Half Term

November

2nd Children return to school
5th Individual and Sibling School Photos
2nd - 6th Poetry Recital Competition
W/C 9th Writing Moderation
11th Remembrance Day
11th-18th - Book Fair in school
10th New to EYFS Open Evening 5.00pm
16th Assessment Week
16th - 20th Random Acts of Kindness Week (in honour of Anti-Bullying week)
20th Parent Workshop My Happy Mind
20th Children in Need



December

1st KS2 Harlow Playhouse
2nd In-house theatre for EYFS and KS1
W/C 7th December Reports to Parents
9th Flu Immunisations (Catch-up Session)
9th Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day
11th Winter Workshops
14th Grotto and Christmas Fair
15th EYFS and KS1 Productions
16th KS2 Carol Concert
16th Last Day of Term

Spring Term Events

January

4th - School Closed to pupils - Inset Day
5th - First Day of Spring term
11th New to EYFS Open Morning 10.00am
W/C 11th - Winter Olympics
W/C 11th Maths Cafes and TTRS/Numbots Competition
14th Mind in West Essex Coffee Morning- Challenging Behaviour and Psychoeducation
21st - Fun Lunch

February

1st - 5th Year 3 and 4 Play in a week
W/C - 1st Year 5 Bikeability (previous sign up)
2nd Night Owls Visit - Whole School
3rd Young Voices at O2
5th - Play in a Week for Year 3 and 4 Performance
9th Road Safety for Reception and Year 5
9th & 10th - Safer Internet Day
10th- 12th Scholastic Bookfair
11th Parent Consultations
15th- 19th Half Term
12th Half Term Mathematics Challenge sent home
W/C 22nd - Numbots and TTRS challenge cup
25th - Swimming for year 5 begins (for 5 weeks)



March

4th World Book Day
W/C 8th – Science Week
12th – Science Fair
19th – Spring Workshop for Parents and Red Nose Day
W/C 22nd – Reports to Parents
25th Last Day of Term

Summer Term Events

April

12th School Closed to pupils- Inset Day
22nd Mind in West Essex Coffee Morning- Anxiety focus and psychoeducation
23rd St George's Day

May

3rd May Bank Holiday School Closed
10th –13th KS2 SATs
21st Finish for Half Term

June

7th Return to School
W/C 7th Y4 Multiplication Check
W/C 7th Phonics Screening
W/C 7th Year 5 and 6 Play in a Week
11th Year 5 and 6 Play in a Week Performance
18th Class School Photographs
18th Summer Workshops with parents
21st World Music Day
23rd Sports Day
30th–2nd July Year 6 Residential Trip

July

7th Sports Day Reserve Date
13th Class Swap
13th Reports Home to Parents
14th Curriculum Open Time for Parents 4–5pm
15th Dinner and Dance
19th Class Parties
20th Year 6 Leavers Assembly



Reception

Physical Development

As the children begin their school journey, we will be placing a strong focus on supporting their physical development, one of the prime areas of the EYFS.

The children will have plenty of opportunities to be active both indoors and outdoors. Through climbing, physical games, dancing and activities involving large movements, we will help them to develop their gross motor skills, coordination, balance and strength.

We will also be helping the children to develop their fine motor skills by providing a range of hands-on activities that strengthen the muscles in their hands and fingers. Our daily Playdough Disco, alongside other fun morning activities, will help to build these skills and prepare the children for tasks such as using pencils and scissors with increasing control.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

For Autumn Term 1, our topic is 'All About Me'. We will be exploring who we are, our families and the things that make each of us unique. We will talk about similarities and differences and encourage the children to share their experiences and learn more about one another.

This topic will also help the children to feel comfortable and confident as they settle into their new school environment. We would really appreciate it if families could share photographs of the people who are important to their child and those who live at home. These will provide a lovely opportunity for the children to talk about their families and experiences.

During Autumn Term 2, our topic will be 'People Who Help Us'. We will discover more about the different people who help us in our everyday lives and explore a range of jobs. We are also looking forward to inviting parents and carers into school to tell the children about their own jobs and experiences.

Communication and Language

Communication and language will be an important focus throughout the Autumn Term. We will be supporting the children to develop their speaking and listening skills through everyday conversations, stories, songs, role play and group activities.

We will encourage the children to communicate confidently, speak politely and express themselves using full sentences. We will also introduce and model new vocabulary, helping the children to build their confidence when speaking with both adults and their friends.

We aim to create lots of opportunities for the children to share their ideas, talk about their experiences and develop their confidence when speaking in front of others.

Reminders

PE day is on a Tuesday, please could children come to school in PE kit, all ready for their learning. Please ensure all children come to school with a named water bottle, a set of spare clothes and packed lunch, if they require. We urge you to label every item of clothing, so if it is misplaced, it is easier to find.



We can't wait for a fantastic year with Reception!

Year 1

We have been super excited to welcome our year 1 children in Determination and Confidence back to school this week. As the children settle into their new classrooms and new routines we will be exploring some fantastic texts in English.

First up, in writing we will be exploring the story of Little Red Riding Hood and creating our very own warning stories.

In reading we will be finding out about how courage can appear in all shapes and sizes and how friendships can spring up in the most unlikely combinations in *The Lion Inside*.

We will kick off our Maths practice by exploring our understanding of numbers, place value and all the ways we can represent numbers up to 10.

Science will see us exploring the differences between objects and materials, if objects can be made from the same materials and describing the properties of materials.

In handwriting we will be continuing all the wonderful work we have been doing in our Kinetic letters sessions and witness how it will help support our writing as we progress through the year and beyond.

Our afternoons throughout the term will be full of active, child- lead exploration that will allow each child to investigate our various learning questions in a practical, hands on and imagination rich environment. We will delve into understanding our school in Geography, try our artistic hands at map making in Art and in Computing experiment with all the tools we can use to create a digital picture and learn to select which one tool would be the most effective for our creations.

PE will see year 1 work on the fundamental skills like balance, running, changing direction in motion, hopping and jumping. We will also explore our net and ball skills. PE will be on a Tuesday and Friday every week. The expectation is that all students arrive to school on those days in their full PE kit.

Each week students will be given a phonics book to read at home with you every day and a reading diary for you to fill in after they have read to you. This is vitally important for your child to progress in their ability to read fluently, improve their vocabulary and help set them on a positive learning journey.

Each week we will also have a small list of spelling words that we would like the children to practice, again, the more you are able to engage in this homework with your child, the more we will be setting up confident and consistent attitudes to learning.

Miss Chivers, Miss Jackson and Ms Bradley cannot wait to get to know each and every one of your children and help to nurture your child's love of learning.

Welcome to Year 1.



Year 2

English

In English this term we will be reading 'Where the Wild Things Are' by Maurice Sendak. We will be focusing on description. Also, we will begin to learn how to punctuate correctly using an exclamation, command, statement and a question. We have daily phonics, spelling and handwriting lessons. As well as this, we will have daily reading sessions focusing on fluency and developing a deep understanding of text.

Maths

In maths we will begin the year by focusing on recognising numbers and their place value. Also, we will learn how to add and subtract using manipulatives and practise developing our reasoning skills. We will alternate daily between calculations and maths mastery to improve our maths fluency and our number sense.

We will start the year focusing on Numbots to consolidate learning, and then we will progress onto TTRockstars when learning to multiply with the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Other Topics

In History, we will be learning about the Great Fire of London and the events that led up to it and how the fire shaped life in London after.

During Science this term, we will be learning about everyday materials. This will cover how the material's property can change its use, and how these materials can shape and how this can influence the purpose of its use.

In DT, we will be learning how to join fabric together and then we will be designing our own template to make a hand puppet.

Class Information

Homework will consist of:

Weekly spellings - given out on a Friday with the quiz on a Thursday

Numbots

Daily reading - book to be changed once a week to aid fluency and understanding alongside an additional reading book for pleasure.

PE days - Thursday and Fridays for both Perseverance and Responsibility.

Please make sure your child brings in a named bottle of water for them to have throughout the day.



Year 3&4

English

This term, we are excited to dive into some wonderful texts! We will explore *Voices in the Park* by Anthony Browne, developing our comprehension skills and thinking carefully about characters, including their likes, dislikes and personalities. We will also enjoy the same text in Writing developing our skills of writing a Change Tale through characterisation.

Children will also have daily spelling, handwriting and Kinetic Letters practice, as well as daily reading sessions to build fluency, expression and confidence.

Maths

In Maths, we will be developing our understanding of numbers and place value up to 1,000. We will learn how the position of each digit affects its value and use this knowledge to read, write and compare numbers.

We will then move on to addition and subtraction using 4-digit numbers, developing our confidence with different calculation methods and solving a range of practical problems.

We will also complete daily calculations to build our mathematical fluency, accuracy and confidence.

At home, please continue to support your child with their times tables up to 12×12 . Regular practice will help to reinforce their learning in school and develop quick recall.



Year 3&4

Non-Core this term

In Geography, we will be exploring the differences between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. We will learn about the Equator, the Tropics, the Arctic and Antarctic regions, as well as time zones around the world.

In Science, we will be learning about Electricity. We will explore what electricity is and where it is found, as well as learning about electrical circuits. We will investigate the difference between conductors and insulators and discover how electricity is used in our everyday lives.

In History, we will be learning about Ancient Greece. We will discover who the Ancient Greeks were and explore the ways in which Ancient Greek civilisation has influenced our lives today.

In Art, we will be exploring Light and Dark. We will develop our drawing and painting skills and learn how to create the illusion of a 3D shape using light and shade. We will apply what we have learned to create a final piece of artwork.

Class Information

Homework will consist of:

Spellings

Daily reading

TTRockstars

PE

Courage - Monday and Wednesday.

Respect - Monday and Wednesday.

Independence - Wednesday and Friday

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 5&6

English

In English, the children will be learning to apply a range of grammar features in their writing through a selection of texts. Grammar is taught daily, alongside handwriting and spellings, which children are encouraged to practise at home. This term, we begin with a portal story, where children will use figurative language to write a description piece. Our next book is, 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll, which supports children's learning in history. Throughout the term, we will be writing for a range of audiences, including a narrative, letter writing, balanced arguments and non-fiction.

Class Information

Homework at the moment will consist of spellings, maths -Learning by Questions (Year 6 only) and daily reading. This enables children to consolidate their learning at home. Children will be tested on their spellings every Friday.

PE is on a Wednesday. Please make sure your child is wearing school PE kit and has a water bottle available.

Maths

In mathematics, our focus this term is on place value, including the use of formal written methods. Throughout the year, students will explore and investigate higher level application of mathematical concepts, such as fractions, decimals and percentages, as well as developing their skills in reasoning and problem solving.

Times tables are a crucial part of your child's learning. Please encourage them to play TTRockstars regularly.

Other Topics this term

History This term, the children will be learning about World War II. Working as historians, the children will ask questions about how WWII began, rationing, evacuation, The Blitz, Winston Churchill and how life changed during that time.

Geography The children will be learning about Rivers, including the revision of the water cycle. The unit will cover the features of a river and field work focused on the River Stort.



Academic Year 2026-2027

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31																					30	31					

	School days
	Weekends
	School Holidays
	INSET Day
	Bank Holidays





Be Honest

Be Safe

Be Respectful



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