



# Abbey Lane Primary School

## Spring 1 2024-25 Newsletter

### Welcome back!

It has been a very strange start to the Spring term with the INSET day and then the snow and ice disrupting school times. Altering the start times of the day or even worse, closing school due to the weather is always a last resort for me which is why the communication for this is sometimes later than some would like. Thank you so much for all of your understanding and support with this – these decisions are only ever made with the safety of the children, parents and staff in mind. Hopefully, that'll be it for this year!

It has been fantastic being back in school and seeing all the children again. I have loved listening to their stories about what they've been up to over the holiday and what presents some of them have got for Christmas (and birthdays!)

Spring term is as always, a busy half term with lots going on in school and I know the staff have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned for the children – the Y5s have already experienced the Wonder Dome this week as they learnt about space and our solar system!

As ever, I want to thank you all for your continued support as we continue to take Abbey Lane on its new trajectory. It certainly feels like we are heading in the right direction now and that is, in no small part, down to you and your brilliant children. I can't wait to see what amazing work they produce in school this term.

**Mr Calcutt**

### X (Twitter)

Shortly before Christmas, Abbey Lane launched an X (formerly Twitter) account to showcase some of the great stuff happening at our school. This will not replace our usual methods of communication but will just supplement what we currently have in place. You can find the page below:

<https://x.com/AbbeyLanePrSch>

The handle for this account is @AbbeyLanePrSch

Please give us a follow and feel free to 'like' and 'comment' on the posts.



## Academy Conversion

As many of you know, Abbey Lane governors voted last year to become an academy and join Peak Edge Academy Trust and I wanted to update you with where we are with this. After thorough consultation with staff, unions and parents, we're currently completing the paperwork for conversion and hope to officially join later this academic year.

We're already collaborating with Peak Edge schools and the CEO Jim Dugmore, to address school improvement goals and staff are benefiting greatly from their support. Joining Peak Edge, one of the city's top primary-based Trusts is an exciting step for Abbey Lane and I'll keep you updated on our progress.

I look forward to updating you further with a more concrete date of when we will officially be part of the Trust. If you do want to know more about Peak Edge, please look at the info on the Trust website:

<https://peakedge.org.uk/>

## Wonder Dome

Year 5 had a visit from the Wonderdome this week – a planetarium space show that visited school. Here is what a couple of our Y5 children thought about it:

*On Wednesday the 8th of January, Year 5 ventured into the Wonderdome. When we arrived we entered the Wonderdome and sat or lay down, we turned round to the wall and watched. As we looked into space, the astronomer talked to us about different facts to do with the planets in the solar system. We were amazed at how good the experience was and wished we could spend more time in the Wonderdome as well as doing it again. Overall, we had such a great time in the Wonderdome.*

By Isla and Sofie





## Message from PALS

Hello from PALS. Happy New Year to everyone. We hope you had a lovely break and are managing in this dreadful weather.

Thank you to everyone who supported our events last term including our super disco, amazing wreath making, uniform sales, buying Christmas cards and refreshments at the wonderful nativities and taking part in the Christmas raffle. In total we raised over £2000 last term. We also received a £100 donation from the Woodseats Festival and we extend our thanks to them.

Exciting News for 2025! We're fundraising to transform our playground and outdoor space into a vibrant, inspiring area for our children to learn, play and grow. Join us in making it happen! You can do this by taking part in one of our upcoming events, volunteering at events or by offering your time and skills to the project. This is now our main focus for fundraising for PALS and we would love you to be a part of it!

Upcoming events include:

Bags 2 School - Monday 13th January

School Disco for Y1 to Y6 Thursday 27th Feb

Quiz Night at Laycocks with pie and peas (supplied by Liberty Foods in Totley) Friday 7th March

If you would like to get in touch please email us at [parentsabbeylane@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parentsabbeylane@hotmail.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook.



## Sheffield Parent Carer Forum

The SEND postponed coffee morning will now be on Thursday 23 January 12.30 - 2.30pm. It is an extended session as Rebekah Lawler from Sheffield Parent Carer Forum will be delivering a session: 'Sensory needs and the behaviours that challenge.'



## INSET Date

Please note that the date of our next INSET day (in March) is different on this newsletter to the last newsletter. The date of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March is correct – the last newsletter said *Tuesday* 28<sup>th</sup> March. This was an oversight on my part so many apologies for that. Our next school INSET day is definitely **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**.

Thank you and sorry for the confusion!

## Diary Dates

Here are some provisional dates for Spring term. There may be more details for some of these events sent out closer to the time. There will also be some dates that don't appear on this list as they haven't been finalised yet.

Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	First weekly Timid to Tiger parent training session (9am)
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Young Voices Concert
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Heights, weights and hearing screening (Reception only)
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Vision screening for Reception
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Sheffield Parent Hub sensory information session (12.30)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	Reception trip to Emergency Services Museum
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2025 – Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Children's Mental Health Week (theme: <i>Know Yourself, Grow Yourself</i> )
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Y2 Dance Showcase
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Y4 Roman Day
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025	Half Term
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Y2 Great Fire of London take over day (2 classes)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Y2 Great Fire of London take over day (remaining class)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	PALS Disco
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025	Reception JAM Coding (computing enrichment day)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Parents Evening (details will be sent out closer to the time)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Parents Evening (details will be sent out closer to the time)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Y3 trip to Magna
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Y5 Viking Day
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	INSET day