



Abbey Lane Primary School

Spring 1 2025-26 Newsletter

Welcome Back!

It has been great to see all of the children back in school this week, excited to talk about their holiday and eager to get back into their learning routine. It is also good to see lots of them prepared for the icy weather this week with their hats, gloves and scarves!

The children have already got stuck into their new units of work for the Spring term and are really enjoying what the teachers have prepared. I've been incredibly impressed with the concentration and learning attitudes in all classes this week. The calm, focussed atmosphere during my walks around school is a testament to both our amazing staff and your brilliant children.

As we move into the Spring term, I would like to thank families for their continued support in upholding our Core Values and expectations. Working together helps to ensure a calm, purposeful environment where all our children feel safe, supported and ready to achieve their best.

Mr Calcutt

Staff Changes

As we move into the new term, there have been a small number of staffing changes at Abbey Lane. We have said goodbye to one of our Year 2 teachers, Miss Harrison. Although Miss Harrison has been with us for a relatively short time she has made a very positive impact and both staff and pupils will miss her. We thank her for her contribution to the school and wish her every success in the future.

We are pleased to confirm that Miss Mahmood will be taking on the role in Y2CH. Miss Mahmood has worked across several year groups at Abbey Lane this year and already knows the Year 2 children well, which will support a smooth transition.

In Year 3B, we are also delighted to welcome Miss Wildsmith, who will be teaching the class on Fridays. Miss Wildsmith is very familiar with the school having supported us regularly on supply over recent years. Both Miss Mahmood and Miss Wildsmith will be with us until the end of the academic year and we are confident they will be valuable members of the team.

Wonderdome

This week, Y5 enjoyed an introduction to their new Science topic of 'Space', with a visit from the Wonderdome planetarium.

"I thought that it was amazing, since it was showing us space. I also think it was a great experience to introduce us to Science and plus we were learning about space." - A Y5 Pupil

"I found the Wonderdome really fascinating and fun, as well as cool, because there was a projector projecting the planets. I learnt that Pluto was a dwarf planet, since it's so small. The cool thing (though everything was cool) about it was that it was a bubble like the moon, and we got to sit inside it." - Poppy, Y5R



Snow and Adverse Weather Conditions

As we enter into the season where we are more likely to experience poor weather, I wanted to reassure you that a school closure will always be the absolute last resort. At Abbey Lane, we want to ensure, first and foremost, that children, their families and staff are able to travel to school safely. We must also ensure that we are able to keep children safe while they are in school. School will always try to stay open in adverse weather and staff, as always, will remain committed to ensuring that they provide great learning experiences for our children.

If we do have to make the unfortunate decision to close school, it will usually be for one of the following reasons:

- The school site is inaccessible or unsafe
- School is unable to provide hot meals
- There is an issue with the heating or the water
- We do not have the correct adult to pupil ratios due to staff being unable to get to school
- We do not have sufficient first aiders
- We have no staff on site with identified responsibility for safeguarding

It's important to note that we have a number of staff who live further away from school from outside the city or in some of the more inaccessible areas of Sheffield whose travel to and from school during snow may be unsafe. Without sufficient staff to cover classes, school would not be able to open due to safeguarding ratios. In addition, as in previous years, if buses stop running or neighbouring schools close, it is also likely that Abbey Lane would have to close.

Late opening

In the event of snow or icy conditions, we may take the decision to open school later than usual. This is to ensure that we give staff as much time to travel as safely as possible. If the decision is taken to open later you will receive a message via Reach More Parents which will provide you with a time to arrive at school. In extreme cases where the weather suddenly becomes worse, there may be a change of decision to close school and not open late; parents will be notified by a further message.

Heavy snowfall during the school day

If there is snow during the day whilst the children are at school, we will **not** send any child home alone. In extreme circumstances, we may send a message out to ask that you come to school to pick your child up. It is imperative that you collect your child as soon as possible to allow us to send staff home safely.

Please avoid ringing school to check if we are open as the phone lines may be needed for emergencies. Please do ring though and leave a message if you are unable to come to school that day because of dangerous travel. You should assume that school is open as usual if you haven't received a message from us stating otherwise. If there are any alterations to the school day due to poor weather, we will also publish this on our school website and we will also inform the local authority and local radio stations.

When weather conditions are adverse, the school may need to make decisions about opening late or closing while responding to rapidly changing circumstances. We appreciate that these situations can be challenging, and we thank families in advance for their understanding and support — including if decisions need to be reviewed or amended during the day.

Above all, we want children, families and staff to be safe so we ask for your support and help over the coming days/weeks/months and, hopefully, this decision won't need to be made!

Thank you for supporting with this if and when it happens.

School Uniform Reminder

As we settle back into the school term, we kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring that children attend school in the correct school uniform each day, including appropriate footwear and jewellery.

Footwear

We have noticed an increase in children coming to school wearing white trainers and branded fashion trainers (e.g. Nike, Adidas, designer styles). While we understand these may be new gifts and children are keen to wear them, these do not form part of our school uniform.

Correct footwear:

- Plain black school shoes/all black trainers (including soles)
- Suitable for daily wear and physical activity

Not permitted:

- White/different coloured trainers
- Football boots/trainers
- Shoes with logos, flashes of colour, or reflective trims

Correct footwear ensures children are safe, particularly during playtimes and PE and helps maintain a consistent, smart school environment.

Jewellery

We would also like to remind families that jewellery is not worn in school, with the exception of:

- Small stud earrings (no hoops or dangling earrings)
- A watch (no smart watches or fitness trackers)

Jewellery can pose health and safety risks, especially during physical activity, and items may be lost or damaged during the school day.

Our uniform policy:

- Promotes safety and wellbeing
- Reduces pressure to wear fashionable or expensive items
- Helps children feel equal, focused, and ready to learn

We appreciate your cooperation and support in helping children arrive at school prepared and safe to learn.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership.

INSET Days for 2026/2027

We have finalised our INSET days for next academic year (2026/2027). These will be days that children will **not** be in school:

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 19th July 2027

Tuesday 20th July 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

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 yet as they haven't been finalised.

Monday 19 th January 2026	Reception heights, weights and hearing tests
Tuesday 20 th January 2026	Reception heights, weights and hearing tests
Wednesday 21 st January 2026	Y6 at Crucial Crew
Friday 23 rd January 2026	Y4 Roman Day
Tuesday 27 th January	FS2 Parents Phonics meeting 4.00pm – 4.45pm
Friday 30 th January 2026	Reception trip to The Emergency Services Museum
Friday 30 th January 2026	Young Voices – Utilita Arena Sheffield
Saturday 7 th February 2026	Y6 Netball Tournament – Sheffield Girls' High School
Monday 9 th February 2026 – Friday 15 th February 2026	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 13 th February 2026	Y5 Netball Festival – Sheffield Girls' High School
Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026	February Half Term
Monday 23 rd February 2026	Y2 Great Fire of London Day
Thursday 5 th March 2026	World Book Day
Monday 9 th March 2026	Y6 WW2 History Van in school
Wednesday 11 th March 2026	Young Carers Action Day
Tuesday 17 th March 2026	Y1 trip to The Tropical Butterfly House
Friday 20 th March 2026	Y5 Netball Tournament – Sheffield Girls' High School
Tuesday 24 th March 2026	Y2 visiting Henleigh Hall Nursing Home
Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Y2 trip to Ecclesall Woods
Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Y3 trip to Magna
Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Holidays