



Abbey Lane Primary School

Spring 1 2023-24 Newsletter

Welcome Back

Welcome back to everyone after what I hope has been a lovely Christmas break – it always goes so ridiculously quickly! It's been fantastic seeing all the children as they returned to school last week and hearing about all of the things that they have got up to during the holiday. I can't believe that we are already approaching the end of week 2!

Although Spring 1 is only a short half term, the staff at Abbey Lane have got lots of exciting learning to pack into those five weeks. I can't wait to see some of the brilliant outcomes and pieces of work that your amazing children are going to produce. I have been particularly struck by the improvements in handwriting that I have noticed all the way through school when I have visited classrooms.

Despite the name, Spring term is usually the time of year where we start getting some snow. We never take the decision to close the school lightly and I really hope it doesn't come to that at all this year. Please read the section about snow on this newsletter which gives a bit more detail on the decision to close and the situation in school if this weather arrives.

I'm really looking forward to getting stuck into the Spring term and seeing all the fantastic learning that the children will be doing in their classrooms.

Mr Calcutt

Staff Changes

We have had some more staffing changes at Abbey Lane moving into this new term. Firstly, we've sadly had to say goodbye to one of our teaching assistants, Mrs Martin, who has been supporting in Y3 this year. Mrs Martin has been at our school for just under 7 years and has been a very popular member of our staff team. The staff and children will miss Mrs Martin but we all wish her all the best for the future.

We also have further additions to our team going into the Spring term. Mrs Alexander has applied and successfully interviewed for a permanent teaching assistant position in Y2. Mrs Alexander knows the school and the year group very well so we welcome her back into our staff team very eagerly. Also, to replace Mrs Martin as one of our Y3 teaching assistants, Miss Stuchbery has joined the staff team at Abbey Lane. Miss Stuchbery has been doing some work at Abbey Lane this year already so isn't totally new to the school or the children. I'm confident she will be a great addition to our school.

Reception Trip to National Emergency Services Museum

On Thursday this week, the Reception classes had a brilliant trip to The National Emergency Services Museum. They looked at the work of the police, paramedics and fire fighters (now and in the past). The children also got to climb inside the vehicles. It was very cold but great fun. Here's what Jon (YRW) said about it: *'My favourite bit was the cells where the baddies go. I liked the gun!'*



Y2 Stay and Read

Before Christmas, the Y2s invited their families into the Main Hall for a stay and read session at the end of the day. It was really well-attended and the children loved being able to wear the Christmas hats that they'd made and share a book with a grown up. It was a really lovely event – thank you if you were able to attend this.



Here's what some of our Y2s from Mrs Jackson's class had to say about it:

'I got to read with my mum and it was really nice' – Maya R

'My nannan came and she helped me sound out the words. It was good because I got to share my biscuits with her' – Freddie S

Smoothie Bikes

We have arranged, with the catering company that we use, Taylor Shaw, to use their smoothie bikes on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th January.

Taylor Shaw brought their bikes into school for each class to have a session making smoothies with them.

Pupils were able to choose a recipe for their smoothie and then pedal away to mix and create it. It was a creative and fun way to promote healthy eating at Abbey Lane.

The children had a brilliant time doing this.





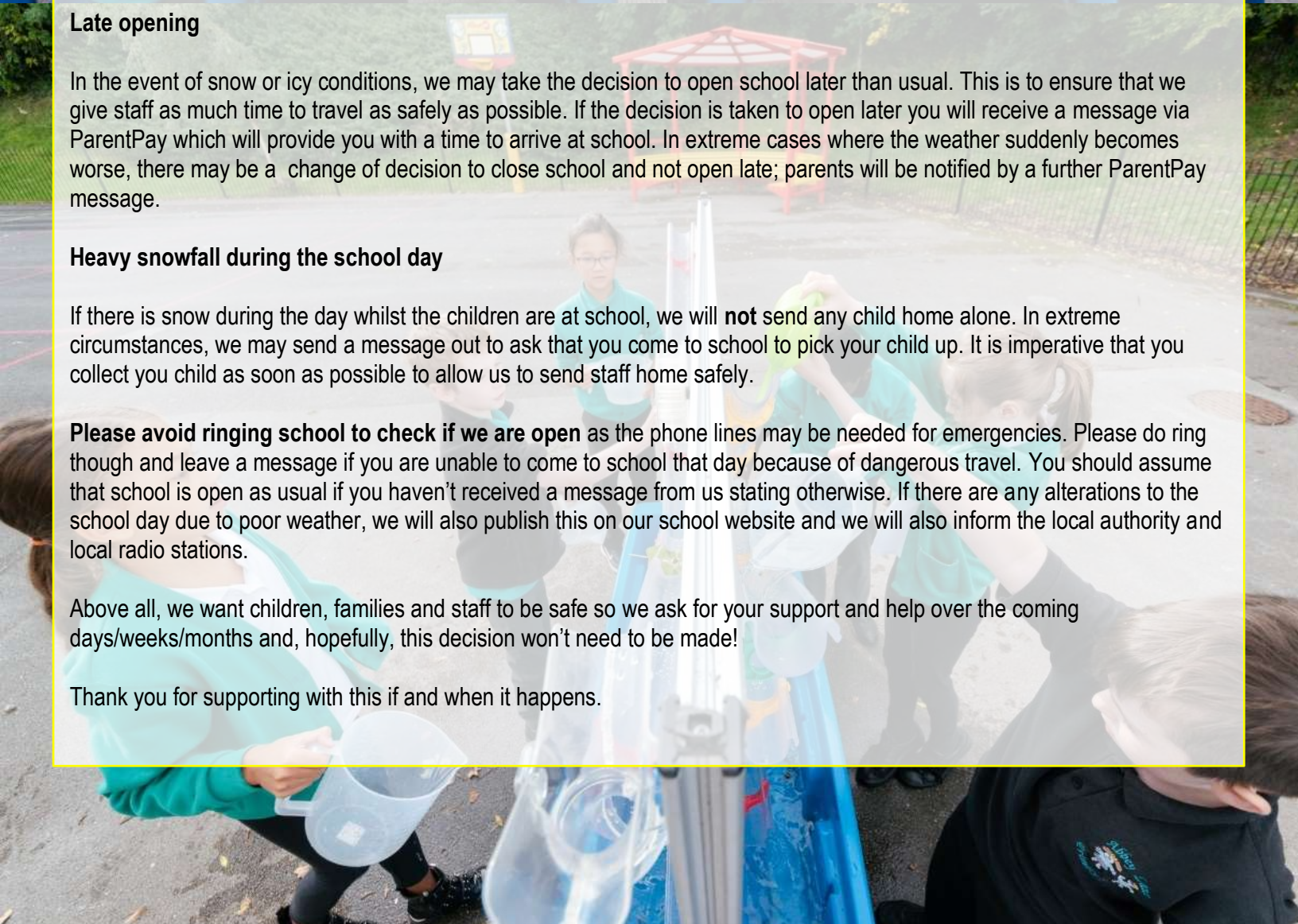
Snow and Adverse Weather Conditions

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 your 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 in Derbyshire or hilly parts of Sheffield (or even some from much further afield) and whose travel to and from school during snow may be unsafe. Without sufficient staff to cover classes, school would not be able to open. In addition, as in previous years, if buses stop running or neighbouring schools close, it is also likely that Abbey Lane would be closed.



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 ParentPay 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 ParentPay 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.

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.

Building Work

We are happy to say that all the building work related to the RAAC that was discovered in some of our roofs at school has now been completed and all areas that were affected by this have now reopened. I've got to say, throughout all of this, the children have been fantastic at getting on with things whilst school was, quite literally, a building site. In fact, many of them were very interested in the work being carried out!

The work was all finished over the Christmas holidays. We are all very happy with the work that has been carried out and to have it all behind us. It's amazing to see how much space we have now all the scaffolding and temporary buildings have been removed!

Parking Signs

We have been sent a collection of brand new parking measure signs that we hope will help alleviate some of the parking and congestion on the main road outside of school at drop off times.

As a reminder, parking is not allowed on the yellow zig zag lines in case of an emergency and this is also true of the bus stop as it blocks buses.

Thank you so much for helping us out with this. It is much appreciated.

PALS

Hello from PALS! Happy New Year to you all. We are delighted to share that in the first term of school we raised an amazing £1942.86. Thank you to everyone for your donations and support! Our upcoming events include Bags2School collection and a meeting which we had at the Abbey Pub on Monday 15th Jan and the infamous Quiz Night at Laycocks on Friday 2nd Feb. As always all of our events require a team of dedicated volunteers, so if you are able to spare an hour to two then we would love to hear from you at parentsabbeylane@hotmail.com. We are really looking forward to another fun filled term ahead! Thanks from all at PALS.

Diary Dates

Please find below a list of provisional dates for the Spring term. We have tried to include as many **provisional** dates as possible. We will send more dates out once they have been finalised.

Tuesday 16 th and Wednesday 17 th January 2024	Taylor Shaw Smoothie Bikes coming into school
Thursday 18 th January 2024	Reception trip to the National Emergency Services Museum
Friday 26 th January 2024	Y4 Roman Day
Wednesday 31 st January 2024	Y4 parents meeting (multiplication and times tables check)
Monday 5 th February 2024 – Sunday 11 th February 2024	Children's Mental Health Week (the theme this year is <i>My Voice Matters</i>)
Monday 5 th February 2024	Reception Parents Writing Workshop
Friday 9 th February 2024	Break the Rules Day (raising money for of St Luke's)
Friday 9 th February 2024	Last day of school before Half Term
Monday 12 th February 2024 – Friday 16 th February 2024	Half Term
Tuesday 20 th February 2024	Young Voices
Wednesday 21 st February 2024 and Thursday 22 nd February 2024	Y2 Topic Takeover Day in school
Tuesday 27 th February 2024 and Thursday 29 th February 2024	Parent's Evening (more details to follow about booking an appointment, etc)
Wednesday 6 th March 2024	Y5 trip to the theatre
Friday 15 th March	Y6 trip to the Holocaust Centre
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Y3 trip to Magna