



Abbey Lane Primary School

Spring 2 2023-24 Newsletter

Welcome Back

Welcome back everyone! I hope that you have all had a brilliant half term break and that the children are refreshed and ready to come back to school. From walking round the classrooms in school this week, this certainly seems to be the case having heard some of what the children got up to last week.

Thank you to everyone who was so supportive of how the snow day was handled before half term. It is always a chaotic and stressful day when this happens and there is never a perfect way to dismiss the children when we have a school the size that we do. That being said, we are always happy to receive feedback about days like this to try and make it as easy as possible for parents/carers to collect their children safely. We hope that the weather can now start to improve for the remainder of the Spring term!

There are some really exciting things happening in school this half term and we are all very much looking forward to seeing the progress that the children will continue to make as they move into the second half of the school year. As always, we want learning to be enjoyable and purposeful for our children here at Abbey Lane and I have already seen plenty of that in the first week back.

I hope that everyone has a fantastic Spring 2!

Mr Calcutt

School Website

We have recently made some alterations to our school website – it would be great if you can spend a couple of minutes taking a look and seeing what you think of it. Under the 'Our School' tab, both the 'Welcome' and the 'Ethos' pages have been rewritten to reflect the tone of where school is currently. We've renamed the 'Ethos' page to 'Ethos, Vision and Values' and added more detail as to what life at Abbey Lane is all about (and what it is like for all stakeholders).

We have also added a new page within the 'Parents' tab called 'Testimonials'. This page is a space where we want to celebrate all the positive things that have been sent into us about school. We really value all the types of feedback that we receive at Abbey Lane and we are very fortunate to have been sent a lot of positive comments over the recent months. Our staff work incredibly hard for the children and it's lovely that some parents have taken the time to send in such positive feedback about our amazing school.

Reception Visitors

As part of our topic 'People who help us', we have been lucky enough to be visited by Sgt Clack and Low Edges Fire Service. It was great fun climbing in the fire engine. We also loved seeing Mr Uddin getting locked in the police van. The Reception children also had a visit from Mrs Moshiri, a parent at Abbey Lane, who is a nurse.



Bobbi's Great News

Bobbi, a child in Mrs Winslow's Reception class, has sadly been battling with cancer for the last couple of years. However, we are delighted to say that she has recently had her 'Ringing the Bell Party' as she has beaten the condition. Bobbi has been incredibly brave throughout all of this and she is now in remission. We are all so proud of Bobbi and some of the Reception staff attended the party and all had lots of fun!



Spring Planters

A special mention must go to Julie Hinksman, our deputy buildings supervisor and part of the cleaning team here at Abbey Lane, for the outstanding effort that she has made on the beautiful spring planters outside the front of school.

The plants within the planters, and the troughs, which she has cultivated and maintained, she has supplied herself. Many of these plants Julie has raised from seeds.

It really has contributed to the welcoming atmosphere around the school entrance so thank you for all of your efforts with this, Julie.

Healthy Snacks

Most children require a snack at morning break to keep them going through the day. We encourage children to bring in healthy snacks full of vitamins and minerals containing no added salt, fat or sugar. Many of these will help contribute to their 5 daily portions of fruit and vegetables, keep them alert and help them concentrate on their learning. It can be hard during the week to think of suitable items for them to bring in to school, but we are aiming, with the help of the children, to not only support them in making healthy choices regarding snacks, but to also reduce food packaging and waste.

Providing snacks in a small, named, recyclable container will help with this, if this is at all possible. Children in EYFS and KS1 have a daily snack of fruit or vegetables provided for free by the government, so additional snacks for these ages may not be required.

If you are intending to send in healthy snacks with your child please limit them to the list below.

- Vegetable sticks – such as celery, cucumber, peppers or carrot, a range of colour ensures different vitamins and minerals.
- A piece of fresh or dried fruit, high in soluble fibre and vitamins would also be a great snack – pineapple, mango, kiwi, plain raisins, apricots, blueberries, banana slices.
- Bread sticks, plain pretzels, banana bread, malt loaf, oat/rice cakes and small pitta breads are also good snacks, providing children with carbohydrate to sustain them inbetween meals.
- Homemade snack - flapjacks or other oat/whole grain based snack.

These must all be nut free. Items brought into school should be carefully checked by parents, to ensure this. Abbey Lane has pupils who are severely allergic to a range of nuts.

We are aiming for a common-sense approach to snacks and eating habits, with the goal being to keep it healthy (no chocolate, sweets or crisps, etc.)

We also need the children to stay hydrated and so please ensure they bring a named water bottle into school daily. Squash and fruit juice are not permitted. We hope that with your help, we can encourage the children to develop healthy eating habits that become a normal part of everyday life. By keeping high calorie snacks to a minimum and establishing healthy eating habits early on, improvements can be made for a child's quality of life both in the short and long term.

Thank you so much for your support and cooperation with this.

Young Voices

Abbey Lane again participated in the Young Voices choir concert at the Utilita Arena, Sheffield, on Tuesday 20th February. It's become something of a staple of the school calendar, with many pupils, ranging from Year 3 to Year 6, giving up their Tuesday afternoons (not to mention time spent at home) to rehearse a wide and varied repertoire of songs in readiness to perform with over 4000 other children in the world's biggest choir!

Our pupils gave the very best of themselves, performing before an audience of up to 5000 people and giving everyone who witnessed the concert a night to remember. Abbey Lane's choir are wonderful ambassadors, demonstrating each and every one of the school's core values: Independence, Teamwork, Creativity, Respect and Wellbeing.

All staff who shared the afternoon and evening with the choir feel privileged and proud to have worked with them. Thank you and well done to everyone involved!



Here's what some of the children who attended and took part in the concert have said about their time at Young Voices:

"I like the lights that shone on everyone, as it gave the arena a great atmosphere and I really enjoyed watching the dancers on the stage. My favourite songs was 'Today is going to be a great day' and the 'Pop Medley'" – Alex (Y5)

"I loved that it gave all children the opportunity to sing in a choir and see a real concert!" – Lily (Y3)

"I really liked that we got to see the surprise stars- my favourite was the drummer, she was only 13! I loved all the majestic lighting too!" – Florrie (Y3)

"When we swung our torches round in a circle, it made me feel happy inside" – Aaraav (Y5)

Children in Receipt of Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

As a school, we receive pupil premium funding which is provided to us in addition to the main school funding. It is allocated according to the number of pupils on roll in the following categories:

- *Pupils who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) or have been eligible for free school meals within the last 6 years (Free School Meals (FSM) depends on the household income and being in receipt of specific benefits.)*
- *Pupils in local authority care for 6 months or more*
- *Pupils from service families*

At Abbey Lane, an outcome from our pupil premium funding is that we will increase pupils' ability to take part in out of hours learning and educational visits, in line with our ethos of inclusivity. Our pupil premium strategy means we will contribute towards the cost of educational trips and residential visits for pupils who fall into the categories above.

We also sent a letter out last term about pupil premium children and after school clubs. We have a range of clubs on offer and, if your child falls into one of the above categories, then they are able to be funded by school to attend one of these clubs for one half term each academic year. Our Pupil Premium Champion at Abbey Lane is Miss Bryan.

Parent's Survey

When you attend your child's parent's evening appointment next week, you will be asked to complete the parent's survey. We've gone electronic with it this time. There will be a QR code to scan near your child's classroom, when you turn up for your appointment, for you to easily fill in the survey which won't be onerous or take too long to complete.

Alternatively, I have copied the QR code below so you can complete the survey at any time. As I have said earlier in this newsletter, we really value your feedback and try to make realistic changes where we can. Thank you so much for your support with this, and with everything that you do as parents and carers for our children.



St. Luke's Raffle

This year our School Council has taken part in the St Luke's BizKids fundraising challenge. They chose to hold a 'Break the Rules day' and a raffle. They received a generous donation of prizes from local businesses, staff and parents. The raffle draw will take place on Friday 23rd February. A big thank you to everyone who has donated a prize or bought raffle tickets. When we have the final total raised, we will let you know.



Parent Pay

Just a reminder to all parents and carers to ensure that they have activated their Parent Pay accounts. This is the main avenue of communication from school so it is really important that you have access to this to ensure that you don't miss any key messages from school. If you need any further information around this, please contact the school office.

SEND Reviews

If your child is on the SEND register at Abbey Lane, you will be having a review of your child's needs with Miss Bryan, the SENCo, and your child's class teacher.

These will be held before the Easter holidays and you will receive information about this via ParentPay.

PALS Updates

Hello from PALS!

We hope you all had a lovely half term. Our Quiz Night on the 2nd Feb was a great success and raised over £500 for school. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. Our next event will be the first disco of 2024 on Tuesday 12th March. Tickets will go on sale from Monday 4th March, before and after school. We are also hosting the rearranged clothes swish on Thursday 21st March – more details to come!

As always we welcome new members to our great team. Any commitment you can give will be a huge help! Finally we are always open to new funding requests from both kids and parents alike. If you have anything you would like to see in school, please email us on parentsabbeylane@hotmail.com. Thank you all for your continued support and for making school such a special time for everyone.

The next PALS meeting is on Monday 26th Feb at 8pm at Peaks Dessert Cafe on Chesterfield Road.

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.

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
Wednesday 6 th March 2024	Y5 trip to the theatre
Thursday 7 th March 2024	World Book Day
Tuesday 12 th March 2024	PALS Disco
Thursday 14 th March 2024	Number Day
Friday 15 th March 2024	Y6 trip to the Holocaust Centre
Friday 15 th March 2024	Red Nose Day
Friday 22 nd March 2024	Reception trip to White Post Farm
Tuesday 26 th March 2024	Y2F – Trip to Ecclesall Woods
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Y2C and Y2J – Trip to Ecclesall Woods
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Y3 trip to Magna
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Y5 Viking Day in school
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Y6 1940's Day
Thursday 28 th March 2024	INSET Day – Children not in school
Friday 29 th March 2024 – Friday 12 th April 2024	Easter Holidays