



Abbey Lane Primary School

Spring 2 2023-24 Newsletter (2)

Thank you

I can't believe we are approaching the Easter holidays! It has been a very busy half term and, as always, there has been so many great things happening in school. Walking around classes recently, I have seen some amazing kites being designed and constructed in Y4, some fantastically presented RE work about Islam being produced in Y6, some brilliant recall of facts learnt about the Vikings in Y5, lots of exciting learning about the Great Fire of London in Y2, plenty of 'out of this world' writing about The Man on the Moon in Y1, some children enthusiastically learning about capacity in Y3 and Reception children writing about their exciting upcoming farm trip!

We have also had Parent's Evening this term which was a very positive event. Thank you if you attended on one of the two evenings to check in with your child's progress. Thank you also if you took the time to complete the governor's parent survey – there were lots of positive comments about school and also some constructive comments about things that we can work on to make the school even better.

This term also saw our long-awaited Ofsted inspection. We are yet to receive the inspection report back from Ofsted but we feel that it was a positive experience. From my point of view, I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the staff at school as they did tremendously well (as they always do) – we are incredibly lucky to have such a talented and dedicated staff team at Abbey Lane. I was also incredibly proud of the children who were an absolute credit to all of their families during the visit. On several occasions, the inspectors commented on just how lovely and amazing our children are. A final thank you to parents and families who gave us encouraging and supportive comments on the gates during those two days and also those of you who filled out the Ofsted parent survey. We were told that this was overwhelmingly positive and I couldn't thank you enough for this. We are very much aiming to be a school for the community and I am so happy to see that, from your point of view, it is starting to look that way. Regardless of what the official outcome will be, I couldn't have been prouder of this school.

Mr Calcutt

Y6 Maths Pop Quiz

Sheffield Hallam University hosted their annual Pop Maths quiz on Saturday 9th March. There were about 20 teams of Y6 children competing and Abbey Lane entered 2 teams. The questions were very challenging, but we tried very hard and did really well. Our teams managed to score 16 and 11 out of 20. A massive well done needs to go out to all of the children who participated in the quiz. Also, a huge thank you to Miss Moralee who, on behalf of the school staff, attended the event with the children and their parents.



***Adam, Amilah, Millie, Minnie, Gabby, Ahanya, Eloise, Prosper, Adejola and James B
Abbey Lane, Pop Maths Team 2024***

Attendance

School attendance is a hugely important factor in children's academic, wellbeing and wider development. Evidence and research tells us that regular school attendance is key to improving children's longer term educational, economic and social outcomes. National data also suggests that children who perform best at the end of primary school (and secondary school) missed fewer school days than those who didn't perform as well.

This is also true of children who regularly arrive late for school. They miss the same parts of the day frequently which causes large gaps to form in their education, meaning that they will fall further behind their peers – both educationally and socially. Currently, there is a big push on school attendance, locally and nationally, and we want to also ensure that the attendance of all children at Abbey Lane is the best that it can be.

Please click on the following link from the Sheffield City Council website to find out more information about attendance:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/school-attendance-truancy>

Attendance in general at Abbey Lane is good and above the national average so thank you to everyone whose children are in school on time every day. We celebrate this in school with weekly Attendance Champions and also class attendance certificates. Below are our attendance figures so far this academic year, broken down into separate year groups.

Year Group	Attendance so far this year
Reception	95.57%
Y1	93.86%
Y2	94.7%
Y3	95.64%
Y4	94.59%
Y5	94.83%
Y6	95.26%

Sponsored Walk

On March 10th, some of our children in Y1 (Evie S) and Y3 (Imogen, Herbie and Myles) did a sponsored walk up Mam Tor for the charity, Bright Young Dreams. This was organised through the drama group that some of them attend. They completed their 6 mile walk through wind, rain and fog and have raised over £1000 so far for the charity. If you'd like to sponsor them, the link is below:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/verve-kids-peak-trek-bright-young-dreams-1708172209870?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fverve-kids-peak-trek-bright-young-dreams-1708172209870&utm_source=whatsapp&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp



Y5 Trip to The Lyceum

The Y5s went on a trip to The Lyceum Theatre this half term to watch a performance of *The Boy at The Back of The Class* – one of their class novels. The children had a brilliant time and were outstanding ambassadors for the school, showing their excellent behaviour and manners. They travelled to the city centre via public transport and had several comments from the public (and the bus driver) about their impeccable behaviour. Once again, our children proved how much of a credit they are to the school, the community and of course to their families. Y5 would like to say a huge thank you to PALS who kindly funded the theatre tickets for everyone – it was a great experience for them all.



The children enjoyed it so much that there were quite a few Y5s wanting to contribute towards this newsletter! Here are a few of the children's views of the trip:

*"I enjoyed our trip to the Lyceum to see *The boy at the back of the class* because the show was really interesting and the ride there and back (on public transport) was fun and different!" – Millie M (Y5HL)*

*"I found the show very enjoyable and fun. We went because we were reading the book (*The boy at the back of the class*) as our class novel. All my friends enjoyed it too and I would definitely go back!" – Louie S (Y5HL)*

*"I enjoyed going to the Lyceum Theatre because the show (*The boy at the back of the class*) was amazing! It was really cool when there were loud sound effects. It was also really fun going on public transport!" – Dulcie D (Y5HL)*

"The aura in the lyceum was amazing and so different to see it on stage rather than a TV. It was really clever that the actors played different parts. The best part was when they pretended to be James Bond. It was quite emotional throughout, but also really funny." – Jemima (Y5HL)

"It was lovely to see the book we read, actually in real life. I liked seeing other schools there too." – May (Y5HL)

"On Wednesday 6th of March we were lucky enough to go on the bus to the incredible Lyceum to watch the intriguing 'Boy at the Back of the Class' show. We were looking forward to this for months and had read the book in class. When we got there, it was better than we all could have imagined! There was music before the show, which we were all were singing and dancing to. When the show started the entrance was very grand and welcoming. The actors were very confident and joyful there were some bits that were funny and some bits that were sad. At the end we all had some tears rolling down our faces." – Isla D (Y5BF)

Spring Disco

We had our school disco on the 12th March and the children really enjoyed themselves. Both KS1 and KS2 children always look forward to the disco and, once again, they all had an amazing night.

Thank you to PALS who organised and ran the event and also, thank you to the members of staff that gave up their own time to support with the evening.

Putting on events like this really mean a lot to the children so thank you again to all involved.

Number Day

We are looking forward to celebrating our Abbey Lane Number Day on Wednesday 17th April (this was originally planned for 14th March). All children and staff are encouraged to come into school 'dressed up for digits'. Wear an item of clothing with a number on it. The more creative the better!

Reception Visitor

In February, the Reception children learnt all about the Lunar New Year. Oscar (in Mrs Winslow's class) and his Mum talked to the children all about it and how they celebrated this at home. It was really interesting and the children all enjoyed hearing about it.



Drop Off

Unless your child is in Y6, please can you ensure that you walk them onto the school premise so that they are not doing this unaccompanied. We are getting a few instances of parents dropping children off by car outside school and letting their children cross the road by themselves. There has also been times when parents are driving in traffic, stopping the car and letting their children get out in the road to come to school. These are things that school does not condone if it were to continue to happen with the same children, school would have no choice but to refer this on. The safety of all of the children at Abbey Lane is paramount in all that we do. Thank you for your cooperation with this issue.

PALS

The Pals team would like to thank all the children, parents, and volunteers for supporting with the disco last week. Thanks to your incredible support, we raised a huge £1239, directly benefiting exciting activities for the children.

A huge thanks goes to our dedicated teachers and parent volunteers who make these events possible. With many current Pals volunteers leaving this academic year, we are looking for new parents to help keep our popular events running. Whether you can commit a little or a lot, your help is invaluable in enriching our children's school experience. Tickets are on sale for our annual Easter raffle where you could win one of seven Easter hampers! Click the link to buy your tickets. <https://raffall.com/354659/enter-raffle-to-win-pals-easter-raffle-hosted-by-emma-foster>

Reach out to us via email at parentsabbeylane@hotmail.com or message us on Facebook to learn more about getting involved.

Happy Easter

We would like to finish off our newsletter this term by saying a happy Easter to all of our families who celebrate it. We hope that you all have a brilliant holiday over the next couple of weeks, whatever it is that you have planned to do.

I can't wait to hear all about the various Easter egg hunts, hot cross bun eating and other experiences shared with your families.

Whether you are painting eggs, seeing some maypole dancing or going on some days out, we hope that you all have a great time and that the children get a well-deserved break ready to come back to school in April for the Summer term.

Ramadan Mubarak

As our school is made up of families from many different faiths, religions and beliefs, we would also like to take this opportunity to say Ramadan Mubarak to all of our Muslim families.

For those who aren't familiar with Ramadan, it is a holy month for Muslims all around the world and it is a time when they observe a period of fasting to test their strength and devotion. Ramadan is also a month for prayer, reflection and community. This year, Ramadan started on Monday 11th March and is due to end on Tuesday 9th April (based on the sighting of the moon).

Diary Dates

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

Tuesday 26th March 2024	Y2F trip to Ecclesall Woods
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Y5 Viking Day (in school)
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Y2C and Y2J trip to Ecclesall Woods
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Y3 trip to Magna
Thursday 28 th March 2024	INSET Day – Children not in school
Friday 29 th March 2024 – Friday 12 th April 2024	Easter Holidays
Monday 15 th April 2024	First day in school of Summer Term
Wednesday 17 th April 2024	Number Day (moved from 14 th March)
Wednesday 1 st May 2024	Class photos in school
Monday 6 th May 2024	May Bank Holiday
Wednesday 8 th May 2024	Y5HL trip to Bempton Cliffs
Thursday 9 th May 2024	Y5BF trip to Bempton Cliffs
May 2024	Y3 Egyptian Day (in school) – exact date will be confirmed after Easter holidays
Monday 13 th May 2024 – Thursday 16 th May 2024	Y6 SATs Week
Wednesday 22 nd May 2024	Y1 Trip to Cleethorpes
Monday 27 th May 2024 – Friday 31 st May 2024	Summer Half Term Holiday
Thursday 18 th July 2024	Y4 Trip to Thornbridge (Y4B and half of Y4H)
Friday 19 th July 2024	Y4 Trip to Thornbridge (Y4F and half of Y4H)
Friday 19 th July 2024	Last day of Summer term for children