



Abbey Lane Primary School

Summer 2 2023-24 Newsletter

One more half term left!

And just like that, the school year is nearly over! It always catches me off guard at just how quickly the year can go – it must be all that fun we've been having!

I hope that everyone has enjoyed their half term break and that you all managed to make the most of the small amount of nice weather that was on offer (unless you went somewhere where there was a greater offering of sun!)

June and July are always really exciting months in school with all the various events and activities that will be going on. This is particularly true for the Y6s with their leavers assembly and performance – it is also a very poignant time for these children, families and the staff at school as we say goodbye to another talented cohort full of brilliant individuals. This last half term also sees the Summer Fair (organised expertly by PALS) which is being held back on the school grounds once again. I look forward to seeing as many of you there on the 6th July as possible.

I am also really looking forward to seeing what all the children get up to in their classes over the next seven weeks and also see them begin their transition into their new year groups ready for September. It promises to be another fantastic half term at Abbey Lane.

I wanted to also say how delighted I am to be remaining as Acting Headteacher for another academic year. These last 12 months have been very challenging but incredibly rewarding for me and, in short, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this role! I would like to say thank you to all of you that have been so supportive of myself and the school over this period. I am very lucky to be working at such a brilliant school with fantastic children, caring families and hugely talented staff.

Thank you, again, and let's see what the next year brings!

Mr Calcutt

Staffing

We have had a few changes to staffing going into this last half term of the year. Mrs Smith in Y1 went on her maternity leave last term and her long term replacement is Mr Conway (who has already been covering Mrs Smith's class for half the week since she has been off so the children are already very familiar with him). Miss Craig will also be going on maternity leave very shortly and her class will be taught by Mr Dickenson who is very popular with the children and knows the class very well already. Covering Mr Dickenson's role as HLTA during this maternity cover will be Mr Wilmer who has been doing supply work in school for the last few months so, again, some of the children will already know him.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Seamarks, a member of staff who has been at Abbey Lane for 13 years. Mrs Seamarks has been both a teacher and teaching assistant during her time at our school. She is well-loved by all children and staff at Abbey Lane and will be severely missed. I'm sure you'll join me in thanking Mrs Seamarks for her time and hard work at Abbey Lane and wish her well for the future.

Congratulations!

Earlier in the summer term, our crossing patrol supervisor, Clare Kirkup, got married. Here are some of our Y3s presenting Clare with a card made by the children. Congratulations Clare!



Litter Pickers

Some of our children have been cleaning up some of the streets and pavements around Abbey Lane on their way to and from school. They have been using gloves and litter pickers and have done a fantastic job of looking after the environment and our local community.

These brilliant children are:

Myles S, Evie S, Finn B, Emmie B, Lucy H, Georgie A, Quinn A, Reuben S and Sam S.

Thank you very much for taking care of our local area and showing that our Core Values aren't just for inside school but for out of school hours too.

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:

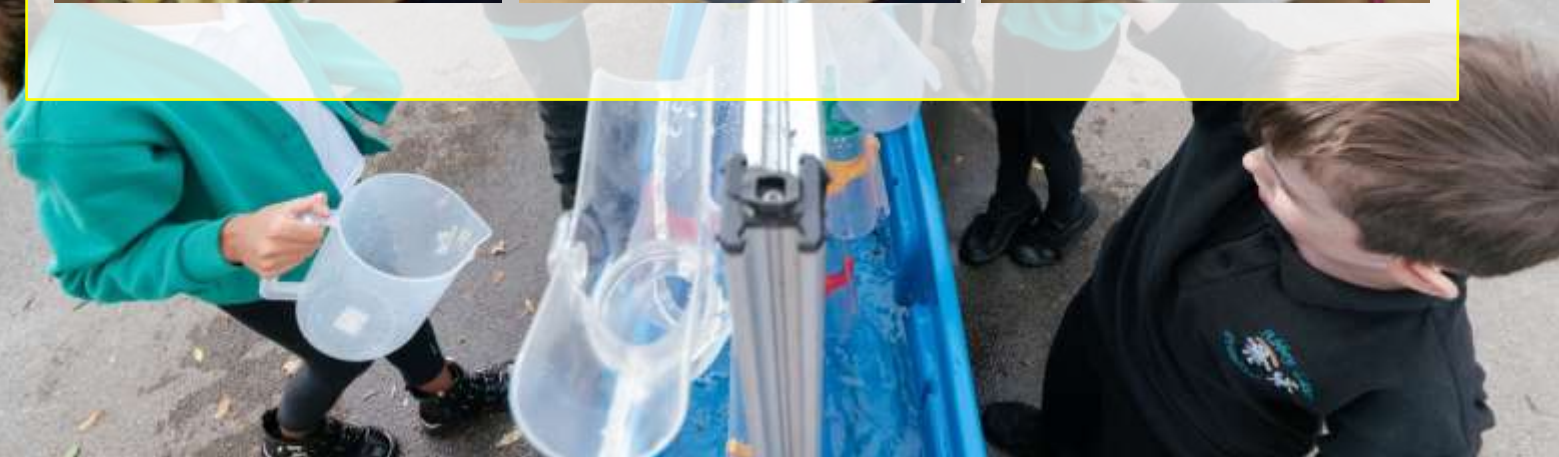
<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/school-attendance-truancy>

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	96.38%
Y1	95.03%
Y2	95.5%
Y3	96.36%
Y4	95.24%
Y5	95.75%
Y6	96.04%

School Bake Sale

Thank you to all that bought some of the delicious treats and contributed towards our fundraising bake sale in May – we managed to raise £468.50 which will be going towards the cost of next year's Y6 residential to Thornbridge. A big thank you to all of the staff and volunteers that baked the goods that were on offer and helped to sell them after school on the day. There really were some great products and the queue was bigger than Glastonbury! Take a look below at some of the delicacies that were on offer:



Lunch Hatch


Last term our lunch hatch wall in the main hall had a bit of a make over. Taylor Shaw, the company that organise and provide our children with their school dinners, have provided us with new wall art on the kitchen end of our hall. It looks absolutely brilliant and has given the hall a bit of colour!



Reception Places for September

We have a limited number of Reception places still available for children due to start school in September 2024. Please contact the school on 0114 2745054 or via email at enquiries@abbeylane.sheffield.sch.uk for further information.

If you have any friends or family whose children are yet to be placed in a school, or who aren't entirely satisfied with where they have been placed, and would like to consider being part of our wonderful family here at Abbey Lane, please pass this message on and we would be more than happy to discuss it with them and arrange a visit to school.



Hello from PALS!

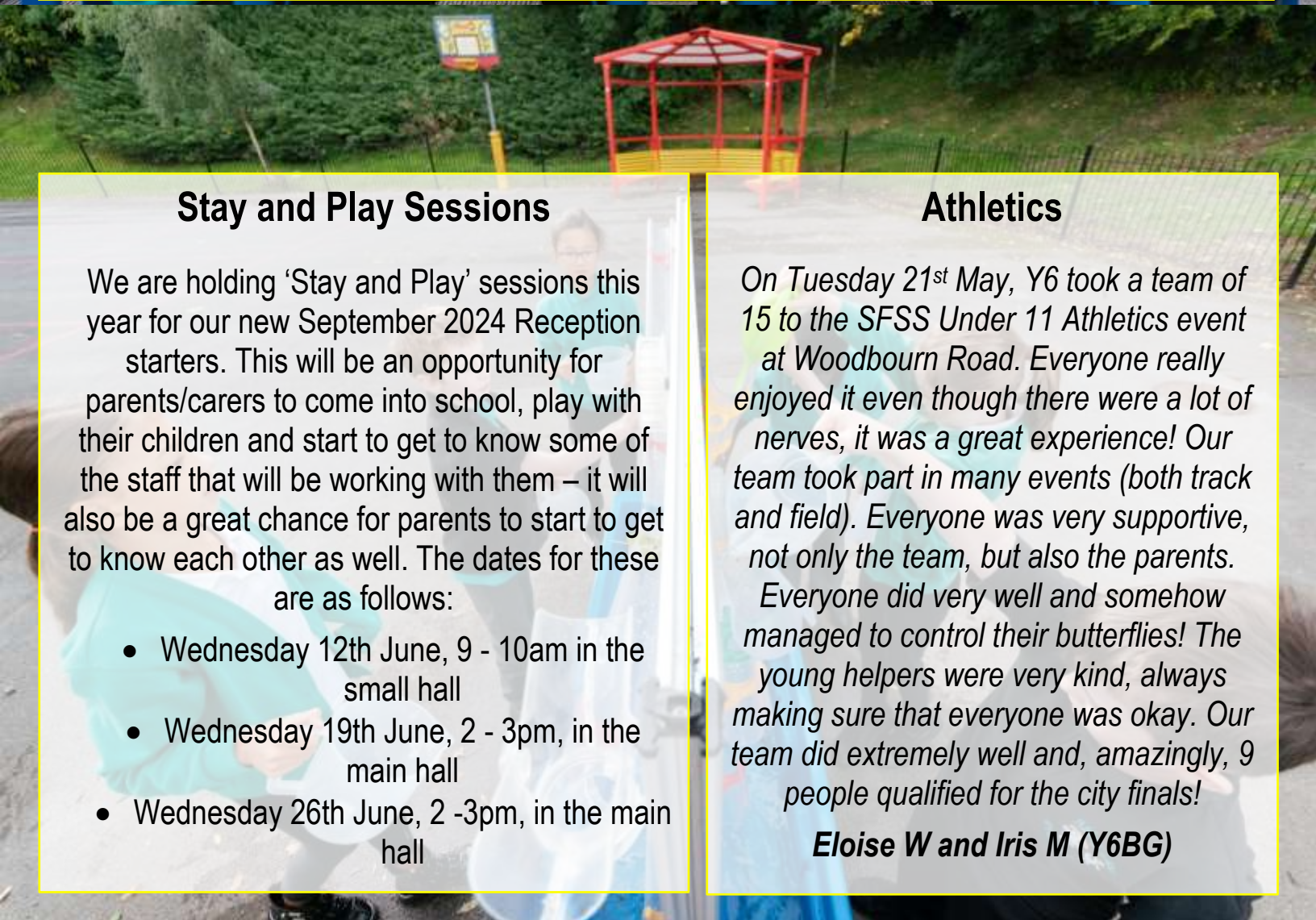
Hello from PALS! Well done for making it through another half term and to all the Y6s for getting through their SATs.

The most important date for next term is the Summer Fair which we are delighted to say will be at school this year on Saturday 6th July 12pm til 3pm. In order for this to be a success we need offers of help to run stalls and set up and pack away. We will also be having a donation week where you can donate items for the raffle, teddy tombola and general tombola prizes. This week will run from Monday 17th June to Friday 21st June. More information to follow.

If you are able to help out with the summer fair or would like to join the PALS whatsapp group then please contact us at parentsabbeylane@hotmail.com

Thank you all for your continued support!!

PALS



Stay and Play Sessions

We are holding 'Stay and Play' sessions this year for our new September 2024 Reception starters. This will be an opportunity for parents/carers to come into school, play with their children and start to get to know some of the staff that will be working with them – it will also be a great chance for parents to start to get to know each other as well. The dates for these are as follows:

- Wednesday 12th June, 9 - 10am in the small hall
- Wednesday 19th June, 2 - 3pm, in the main hall
- Wednesday 26th June, 2 -3pm, in the main hall

Athletics

On Tuesday 21st May, Y6 took a team of 15 to the SFSS Under 11 Athletics event at Woodbourn Road. Everyone really enjoyed it even though there were a lot of nerves, it was a great experience! Our team took part in many events (both track and field). Everyone was very supportive, not only the team, but also the parents. Everyone did very well and somehow managed to control their butterflies! The young helpers were very kind, always making sure that everyone was okay. Our team did extremely well and, amazingly, 9 people qualified for the city finals!

Eloise W and Iris M (Y6BG)

Diary Dates

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

Thursday 6 th June 2024 – Friday 14 th June 2024	Y4 Multiplication and Times Tables Check
Monday 10 th June 2024 – Friday 14 th June 2024	Y1 Phonics Screening Check
Thursday 13 th June 2024 and Friday 14 th June 2024	Book fair in school
Monday 17 th June 2024	Rearranged date for Y1 trip to Cleethorpes
Monday 17 th June 2024 – Friday 21 st June 2024	STEAM Week (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths)
Monday 24 th June 2024	Y6 Trip to Crucial Crew
Wednesday 26 th June 2024	KS1 Sports Day at school
Friday 28 th June 2024	KS2 Sports Day at Graves Tennis Centre
Tuesday 2 nd July 2024	Reception trip to see The Gruffalo at The Lyceum
Tuesday 2 nd July 2024	Meadowhead Community Learning Trust (MCLT) Concert
Wednesday 3 rd July 2024	New Reception parent's meeting
Thursday 4 th July 2024	Author visit from Clare Povey
Friday 5 th July 2024	Reception Sports Day
Saturday 6 th July 2024	Summer Fair (held at school)
Monday 8 th July 2024 and Tuesday 9 th July 2024	Y6 'Darwin Rocks' performance dates
Tuesday 9 th July 2024	Elegance Music Musical Evening
Wednesday 10 th July 2024 (AM) and Thursday 11 th July 2024 (PM)	Transition dates – children spending time with their new teacher, in their new classes
Friday 12 th July 2024	Reports go out
Tuesday 16 th July 2024	Y2 trip to Manor Lodge Castle
Wednesday 17 th July 2024	Y6 trip to Graves Park
Wednesday 17 th July 2024	Open Day for parents
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	Y6 Leaver's Assembly
Friday 19 th July 2024	Reception Pirate Picnic
Friday 19 th July 2024	Last day of Summer term for children