



Abbotskerswell Primary School

Slade Lane, Abbotskerswell, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 5NS

Tel: (01626) 353605 Email: admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk



Friday 29th November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

With the festive season not far away, to help you plan ahead, I thought it would be good to give you an overview of some of the events happening on the lead up to Christmas.

Our key dates for Christmas events are indicated at the bottom of the newsletter, please keep hold of them for reference. Arrangements for the festive season are outlined below.

Start of Christmas at school - Friday 29th November

This year we have gone for a real Christmas tree in the foyer which our school councillors have decorated. We also have a tree in our library decorated by our library leaders. Many thanks to parents who gave donations of decorations and also to Fermoy's who gave us discount and delivered the tree to school. I'm sure many of you have already noticed that Mrs Fordham and her Nature School team have decorated the sensory garden which is looking very festive. You are very welcome to drop in and have a look.

Christmas Post Box – Monday 2nd December

The Christmas Posting box will be out in school from Monday 2nd December. If children would like to post Christmas cards to their friends, could you please ensure that your child/ren have written their friend's first name, surname and class on the envelope, as we have some children in school with the same first name.



PTFA Festive Christmas Quiz – Thursday 5th December

After the great success of the previous quiz, the PTFA are running a second quiz night. The event will start at 7:30pm. £3 per person | max 6 people per team. Mulled Wine & Free Mince Pies. **Proceeds going towards PTFA Funds**

Christmas Craft and Jumper Day – Friday 6th December

Children will work in mixed age house groups and create a variety of Christmas crafts. Children can also wear a Christmas jumper to school on the day in return for bringing an item/s for the Christmas Shop. Children can bring 1,2 or 3 presents. The amount of presents they bring in will equate to the amount of presents they can choose from the shop. Eg If a child brings in 2 presents, then during the shop they will be able to choose 2 presents. Please don't go to the trouble of buying a Christmas jumper, if you don't have one, adding some decorations to a coloured jumper or wearing Christmassy colours is just as good. Please note, children do not need to wear school uniform with their jumper, non-uniform is fine.



Nativity rehearsal for pre-school – Tuesday 10th December

Puffins and Robins Christmas Production will take place in the school hall for the pre-school.

Christmas Shop – Wednesday 11th December

The PTFA are kindly running the Christmas shop again. This will take place in the library this year. As mentioned above, the number of presents children can choose will depend on the number of presents they bring to school. Many thanks for the PTFA for organising this.

Nativity - Thursday 12th December 2.45pm

Puffins and Robins Christmas Production will take place in the school hall for parents. This will be finished by the end of the day.

Key Stage 2 Christmas Service – Thursday 12th December 2pm.

We invite parents of children in Swift and Kingfisher classes to join us for the Key Stage 2 Christmas service, which will take place at St Mary's Church at 2.00pm



KS2 singing at Mallands – Tuesday 17th December

The KS2 children will be singing and entertaining the elderly residents.

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 18th December

The children always enjoy the annual Christmas lunch when we all sit down together in a festive atmosphere! This year, as part of our aim to reduce the use of plastic within school, we will not be having traditional crackers with plastic toys. At the moment we are trying to source an alternative to this.



The menu for Christmas lunch is: M = Roast Turkey V = Quorn Roast served with Roast potatoes, pigs in blankets, yourkshire pudding, stuffing, peas, carrots, broccoli and gravy. Dessert Option 1 = Chocolate sponge pudding Option 2 = Artic Roll

Please note that there will be no other menu options available on this date. The cost of the lunch will be £2.30 for the two courses.

Please make sure you have booked your child's Christmas dinner online via Parentpay by Monday 9th December at the latest. The ordering system is exactly the same as ordering lunch for any other day but you should be able to see the Christmas Dinner options for 18th December instead of the usual choices.

Children can come in a Christmas jumper on this day, or add some decorations to their uniform if they would like to.

Christmas Treat – Thursday 19th December - 10am

Many thanks to the PTFA who are supporting a Christmas treat for the children in the form of a performance from Theatre Alibi.

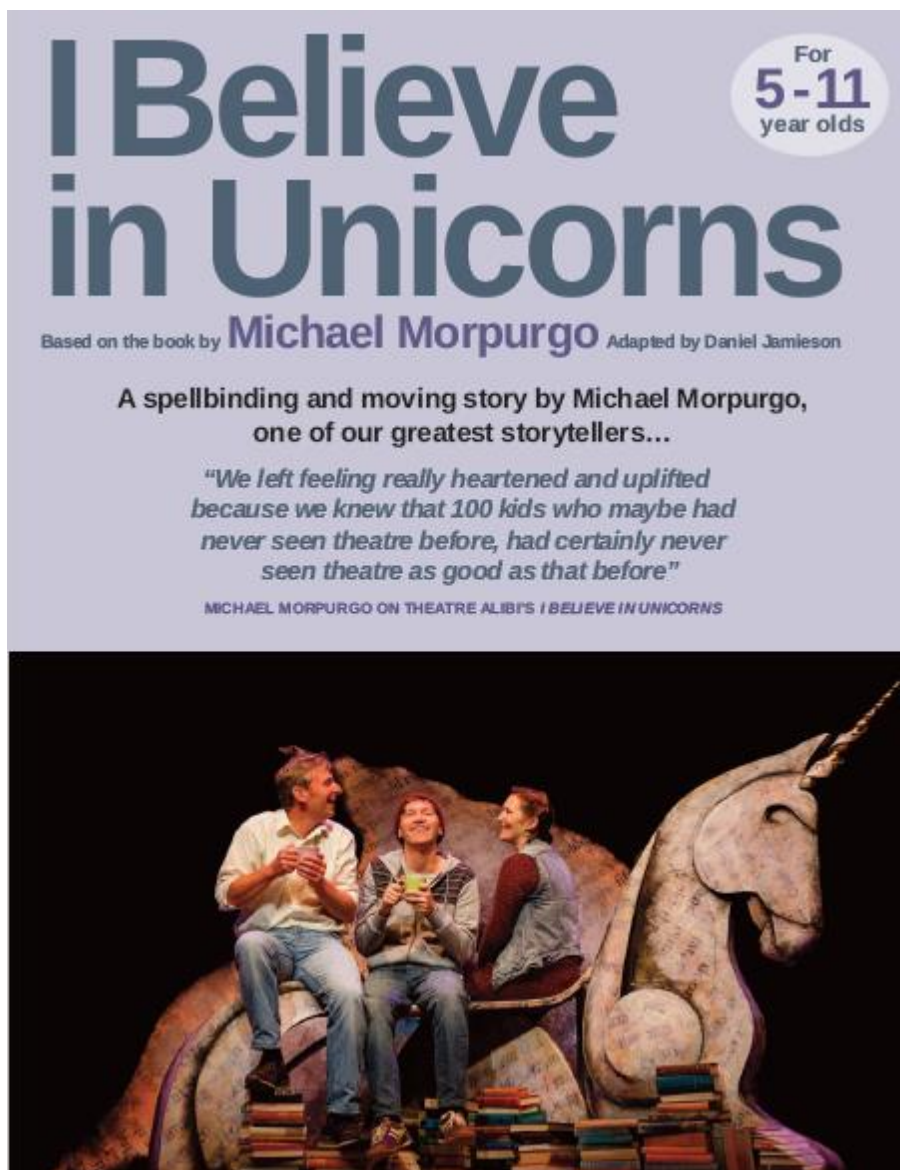
Christmas Parties – Thursday 19th December

Children will have their class Christmas parties on this day. Children will also be visited by Father Christmas during the afternoon as well.

Last day of term - Friday 20th December

We've made it to the end of term. Everyone is tired and ready for a great Christmas with their families.

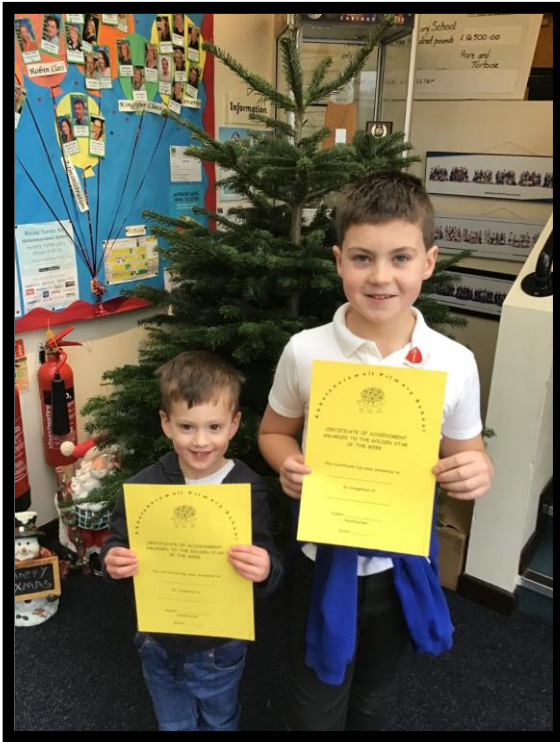
I hope that this gives a clear outline of arrangements for Christmas and helps you plan ahead. I look forward to seeing you at some of the events that will be taking place over the coming weeks.



Achievers assembly

Each week, we celebrate children's achievements, where teachers award 'praise' to children in their classes. We also have Star Writers, efforts made in PE lessons, best class attendance and golden tickets given to children displaying good manners and showing respect. Children are also welcome to bring in any achievements from outside school to share with the rest of the school.

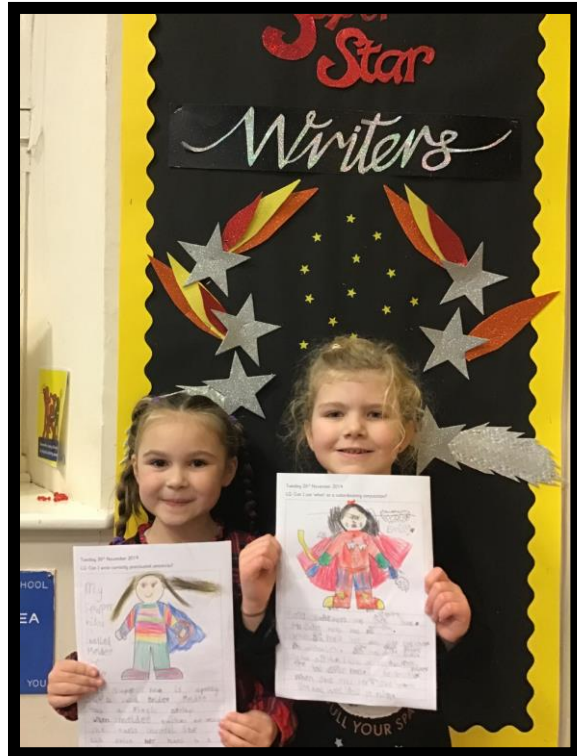
These achievements could be musical or sporting for example. Please just pop any certificates, medals or trophies into my office on a Friday morning ready for the praise assembly in the afternoon. This week's achievers are:



Praise Awarded to:

Puffin Class – Ridgley

Kingfisher Class - James



Star Writers: For their Super Hero writing
Robin Class - Ria and Poppy

Primary Sports Holiday Club

Mr Vile will be running a Christmas Holiday Club at school on Monday 23rd December, Thursday 2nd January and Friday 3rd January. If you would like your child to attend any of these days please complete the attached form and return to the school office. There are hard copies available from the office if you are unable to print at home.

Abbotskerswell Community Orchard

Join members of the Parish Council on Saturday 30th November at 2.00pm to help with the creation of the community orchard. See attached poster for further details.

Well-being taster session

On Wednesday 4th December, we are going to host Sue Mutlow in running a well-being taster session from 5.15pm – 6.15pm in the school hall. Please see the information below.

Gentle and Effective Exercise Classes



Positive Steps
for Good Energy

Learn techniques to help you through your daily life

- ✓ Feel good, daily
- ✓ Lift your energy
- ✓ Ease your emotions
- ✓ Increase confidence
- ✓ Boost your immune system
- ✓ Reduce stress and anxiety

Enjoy a TASTER SESSION

Wednesday 4th December
5.15 pm – 6.15 pm

at Abbotskerswell Primary School

Just : £5



Sue Mutlow, EEM-CP, IHHT
Tel: (01803) 391628 Mob: 0747 7921961
www.positivestepsforgoodenergy.co.uk

Attendance

Our overall attendance figure for this week is **94.36%**. This is below the Devon and National averages.

Attendance Since September						
Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94.12%	95.06%	97.92%	97.04%	96.53%	91.67%	88.15%

Children's regular attendance at school is essential to ensure that they maximise their learning opportunities to achieve their full potential. Although we do want the children in school as much as possible, just a reminder that we follow the NHS guidelines and have a 48-hour rule if your child has been sick or has diarrhoea. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>

For any planned absence, please use the S2 Absence Request form which can be obtained from the tray outside of the office. As you are no doubt aware, holidays in term time are strongly discouraged and the school will continue to follow Government guidelines which do not allow for authorisation of holidays in term time.

PTFA Message

The tea towels are flying out of the office, so if you haven't got yours I wouldn't hang around! Each of the children have drawn self portraits and you can also find some members of staff beautifully depicted! They can be purchased from the school office at £4 each or 3 for £10. Cash or cheques only made payable to Abbotskerswell PTFA. This will not be on Parentpay.

The PTFA quiz night is just around the corner, Thursday 5th December. Please do join us for an evening of fund and nibbles. Just £3 per person, maximum of 6 people per team and you can either come as part of a team or we can find you a team to join on the night. Cash prize for the winners!



As always, if you have any worries or concerns, then class teachers are always happy to help. Alternatively, I am at the front of the school most mornings, so just have a chat or share good news with me about you and your family. For more confidential matters, please speak to Marie or Becky in the office to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Martin
Headteacher

Key Dates

<u>November 2019</u>	
Friday 29 th November	Puffin & Robin Class St. Andrew's Day Celebrations
<u>December 2019</u>	
Monday 2 nd December	Christmas Card Post Box in the Foyer
Wednesday 4 th December	5.15-6.15pm Sue Mutlow Relaxation Session Parents &

	Staff Welcome to attend £5 each
Thursday 5 th December	7.30pm – 9.30pm PTFA Christmas Quiz Night at the School
Friday 6 th December	Non School Uniform Day (bring in a gift for the Christmas shop)
Friday 6 th December	Christmas Craft Morning & Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 10 th December	am – Puffins and Robins Nativity for pre-school
Wednesday 11 th December	Christmas present wrap day & shop
Thursday 12 th December	2.45pm - Puffins and Robins Nativity for Parents
Monday 16 th December	2pm – KS2 Carol service (Church) Parents of Swift & Kingfisher Class Invited to attend
Monday 16 th December	Full Governors Meeting – 5pm
Tuesday 17 th December	KS2 Choir Singing (Mallands)
Wednesday 18 th December	School Christmas lunch
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper or Decorated Uniform Day
Thursday 19 th December	PTFA Christmas treat – Theatre Alibi performance (I believe in Unicorns)
Thursday 19 th December	Pm – Christmas Party & Games & Father Christmas Visit
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term
Monday 23 rd December	Primary Sports Holiday Club
Thursday 2 nd January	Primary Sports Holiday Club
Friday 3 rd January	Primary Sports Club
<u>January 2020</u>	
Monday 6 th January	Staff Inset Day (Curriculum planning)
Tuesday 7 th January	First day back at school for children
<u>February 2020</u>	
Monday 10 th February	Full Governors Meeting – 6pm
Friday 14 th February	Last day of half term
Wednesday 26 th February	NSPCC workshops and assembly
Friday 28 th February	Robins class – Warburton's visit
<u>March 2020</u>	
Monday 23 rd March	Full Governors Meeting – 5pm
Tuesday 24 th – Thursday 26 th March	Year 5/6 Residential to London
Friday 27 th March	Last day of term

Please note, these dates may be subject to change but we do try and give as much notice as possible.