



Abbotskerswell Primary School

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Friday 18th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

What a term!

The weekly newsletter gives you a glimpse of some of the things going on in school. This final newsletter of 2020 shows some of the exciting Christmas activities in school that have happened this week.

Thank you

We have reached the end of a long term, but I couldn't be prouder of how the school community have collectively pulled together and dealt with the challenges we have faced this year.

**THANK
YOU!**

Firstly I would like to thank the children. They have all been amazing and they really are such an asset to Abbotskerswell School. I can honestly say that the children at Abbotskerswell School are happy.

Also, a huge mention for the school staff team who have worked so incredibly hard to make this Autumn Term so successful. Every member of staff has played such an important part in ensuring that our curriculum has carried on as normal. I know that many of you as parents have valued the commitment of the staff, allowing for your children to flourish and feel 'normal'. The whole school has felt a bit like a 'bubble' in a world of uncertainty.

I would like to thank the PTFA for managing to continue your fantastic work in difficult circumstances and for continuing to find creative ways of providing enriching opportunities for our pupils at the school.

I would like to thank all of our Governors. The Governors often go unnoticed, but all of them are volunteers who play such an important role in guiding the school in the right direction. The governors have been really supportive to both myself and the school and their hard work and dedication should be acknowledged.

My final thank you is to you as parents. Your support, co-operation and understanding has been crucial in ensuring that our school has been as safe as possible. All of you have supported changes in uniform, changes to drop offs, changes to routines, changes to wrap around provisions, changes to parents evening – and so many other things – but all of you have supported us. This has made our jobs so much easier than it could have been and has allowed us to focus on delivering a high quality curriculum for your children.

Christmas videos

On our school website, under each classes page, you will find some of the creative ways each class has celebrated Christmas. Many thanks to Mr Chidler for taking the considerable amount of time to upload them for parents to be able to enjoy.

Puffins

- Nativity 2020

<https://www.abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk/puffin-class-year-r-1>

Robins

- Nativity 2020
- Pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk

<https://www.abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk/robin-class-year-1-2>

Swift

- Christmas sign to sing

<https://www.abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk/swift-class-year-3-4>

Kingfisher

- Christmas comedy skitz
- Night before Christmas (Spanish style)
- The story of Christmas (readings)

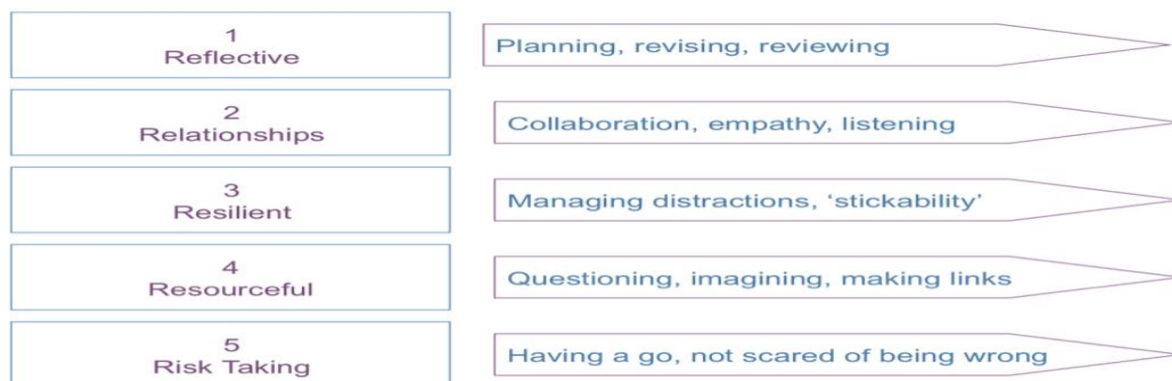
<https://www.abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk/kingfisher-class-year-5-6>

Positive Learning Behaviours

Throughout the year, we continually promote positive behaviours and good relationships across the school.

As explained in a previous newsletter, during this half term we have had a whole school focus on 'learning to learn' skills. Each class has identified 4-5 children in their class who they feel have really gone above and beyond and displayed examples of these skills in practice. The teachers have found this really hard to only choose a few children and there could have been many many more children chosen. If your child has not been chosen, this is not because they haven't shown these skills, it is purely we only have a limited amount of prizes. Each winner will receive a certificate and a £10 voucher, kindly donated by the PTFA.

The skills that have been are a focus have been:



In addition to this, one child from each class has been selected by a lunchtime staff for their good manners and outstanding behaviour during lunchtimes.

The winners were told today during our virtual assembly. The teachers have given a brief synopsis of the reasons why each child was chosen.

Puffins

Resilient - Taylor

Taylor always works his socks off! He tries so hard in all learning and perseveres when exploring something new. He has worked lots on robot talk which has really helped him to begin to read! What a super learner!

Relationships - Ava

Ava is a very kind Puffin. She has made so many friends already! Ava will chat, play and work with any Puffin. She supports her friends and encourages them when they find something a tricky challenge. Super Puffin!

Risk Taking - Jasmine

Jasmine is a learning machine! She is always up for a challenge and will try out new learning with lots of confidence! She uses skills that she has learnt and applies them independently, allowing her to succeed!

Resourceful - Coralie

Coralie has an awesome imagination! She has super ideas and uses lots of different materials and resources in the classroom to put her ideas into action! Well done creative Coralie!



Robins

Leo

Leo's excellent attitude to learning has blown us away this term! Transitioning to Year One with a whole new curriculum is by no means easy but Leo's determination to succeed and better his own learning has been incredible for us to watch. We have seen him come on in leaps and bounds and are very proud of him for what he has achieved and the resilience he has shown within his short time in Year One.

James

James is receiving this award for many, many reasons! More than we can possibly include in this short paragraph. In the classroom there is never any doubt around how hard James is trying. He is extremely committed to working hard and is a very resourceful learner, making use of his previous knowledge and challenging himself to make further progress. Outside in the playground James can always be found playing fairly, taking others thoughts, ideas and opinions into account helping other Robin children to have really successful playtimes.

Ellie-Jayne

Ellie-Jayne's puts 100% into everything in school. In class inputs Ellie is so focussed, her focus means that she is then able to complete independent tasks with real detail. When things have been tricky and mistakes have been made Ellie takes a mature approach and uses them as an opportunity to learn and improve her work. Ellie-Jayne's manners to adults and peers are impeccable, as is the respect she shows to everyone and everything around her. Ellie is a great role model for all children!

Mia

Mia is receiving the award for her excellent relationships. Mia is a selfless individual who always takes interest in others ideas and contributions to ensure they feel included but isn't afraid to share her own views even when they are opposing. Mia seeks a good middle ground if there is ever any conflict amongst her peers ensuring that the final outcome pleases everyone. Her peers and the adults in class look highly upon Mia due to her excellent manners that we see at every opportunity. Furthermore, she works very hard and tries her best with everything that she does!

Thea

Thea has thrown herself into Year One life! She puts her all into everything even when things get tough. When mistakes have been made Thea isn't knocked back them, instead she pushes herself to learn from them and to succeed in the end. She is always keen to share her thoughts and ideas in class discussions and her contributions are highly valued by the rest of the class. Thea is incredibly patient and recognises the power of 'yet' and knows that just because she can't do it right now, doesn't mean that she's never going to get there.

Rosie

Rosie is a real all-rounder! She works so hard in class and is never afraid of challenge, she pushes herself to keep going and is always keen to keep learning more. Her manners are excellent and she is a role model to her friends. She is always considerate of others thoughts and really cares for other people's opinions. Rosie's attitude to learning and people makes her an amazing role model for children right across the school.



Swift

Matteo

Matteo is an absolute star – always respectful, resilient and works to the best of his ability.

Rory

Rory is a quiet, thoughtful and conscientious pupil who is always respectful of others and tries his best in everything.

Poppy

Poppy always listens well so that she can try her best at any task even if she finds it difficult. She will independently select the resources she needs.

Jasper

He has a good relationship with all the children in the class. He is considerate, polite and always listens to others and helps them if they need it.

Joshua

He continues to work really hard and always has interesting things to say in class. He is a friendly, polite and joyful pupil to have in the class.



Kingfisher

Reflective Learner - Will

Will is able to set his own goals and identify what he needs to do next. He can explain his learning in different ways and is not afraid to try out new ideas. He keeps going on tasks and does not become impatient if a solution is hard to find.

Relationships - Beau

Beau is extremely good at helping other children during playtimes and listening to them if they have a problem. She tries to understand other children's point of view on these occasions. She works well as part of a team.

Resilient - Alfie

Alfie approaches every task with enthusiasm and keeps going. He concentrates extremely hard and does not become distracted or give up- even if the task is very tricky.

Resourceful - Tristan

Tristan asks questions about his learning and wants to find out more and more and more. He is imaginative and is able to approach his learning using his imagination. He reflects on what he knows and uses this to work out the next step.

Risk-taking - Millie

Millie takes risks in her learning and will give new ideas a go. She learns from any mistakes she makes and uses this to improve her work.



Lunch Awards – Good Manners

- A Puffin Class - Arthur
- B Robin Class - Maison
- C Swift Class - Evan
- D Kingfisher Class - Lola

Christmas Lunches

On Thursday the children enjoyed a festive lunch which included turkey, mini Yorkshire puddings, crispy roast potatoes, stuffing and much more. The Christmas decorations in the hall looked fabulous and the Christmas lights twinkled along with the festive music! The meal was enjoyed by all those who had it. The children had a treat as they were served by their teachers. The children said:

I loved it! Alfie- Y5

Delicious! Lily-Y6

Mouth-watering!- Chloe Y6

The pudding was so nice!- Jayden Y5

I wanted more of it!- Dexter Y6

The pigs in blankets were amazing!- Thomas Y5

It was the best thing my taste buds have ever touched! (A Year 5 boy who didn't want to be named in case he upset the cook in his family!)



Rock Star Results!

This week's Times Tables Rock Stars year group winner was...



Year 4!



Well done to Year 4, a clean sweep of five weeks!

Miss Walsh and Mrs Pearson will be extremely pleased as the hard work of Year 4 has also earned them a prize!

This week's individual winners were...

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ria aka. Duchess Rose	Edward aka. I Am Brass	William aka. Tony Matthews	Lola aka. Ash Von Rock	Tristan aka. Jeffrey Sennett

We would like to also recognise some more children who we have noticed playing regularly at home, working hard to better their own scores.

A Big Well Done To...

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Megan Ellie-Jayne	Sam Rory	Eliza Oliver W	Thomas N Harry	Chloe Ralph

The competition may be over for now, but you are still able to use TTRS to earn your own coins to spend in the online shop. We will get another competition underway in the new year with a bigger focus on working hard to improve our own scores.

Happy Rocking!

Track and Trace

It is our duty of care to ensure we track and trace any positive cases over the Christmas break. Therefore, please can you ensure you notify us if your child has a positive test over the holiday period. This will allow us to fulfil our duty of care to others. Please send this information to kevin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk We will ensure we rapidly communicate any information we receive and the email address will be checked regularly.

Please see the flow chart at the bottom of the newsletter for further information.

Class Christmas Crafts

The children have been having lots of fun celebrating Christmas in their individual class rooms here are some of the fantastic things they have made.



Free School Meals over the Christmas Holidays

The Local Authority have now put in place arrangements to provide supermarket vouchers to nearly 15,000 children across Devon who currently receive free school meals, to help their families buy groceries over the Christmas holidays. We don't want anyone to miss out on this vital support so if you are entitled to Free School Meals or if you think you may now be eligible for free school meals due to a recent change in circumstances, please apply online through the Devon Citizen's as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can call our education helpline on 0345 155 1019. To ensure you receive the free school meals holiday vouchers for this Christmas period you must apply by Friday 18 December 2020.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/free-school-meals-holiday-voucherscheme/>

New School Lunch Menu

The lunch menu for the start of the Spring Term will be uploaded to Parentpay over the wee kend. You will be able to log in and start booking your child's meals from next Monday. Please remember that the deadline for booking meals is the Thursday night for the following week. So please book the first week's meals by Thursday 31st December.



Wrap Around Care Reminder

The next block of bookings will run from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 29th January 2021. The deadline for these bookings is Thursday 31st December. You can make your bookings right up until the February half term, if you wish to do so.

We appreciate it can be difficult for some parents to know in advance what sessions they require, but to enable us to keep track of the 'safe bubbles', plan for the sessions, organise staff, order food supplies etc the 4 week block booking must be adhered to.

Please be advised that we will not be able to accept bookings on the actual day.

If you click on the below link it will give you detailed instructions on how to make a booking via Parentpay. Should you need any further help please email Marie or Becky at admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk

https://d19540ae-f48f-4abc-9219-eac6b4a0ff62.filesusr.com/ugd/27afdf_83a16d13d7a8423985c24cfb20824d8f.pdf

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Leads and contact information

Members of staff who are safeguarding leads are as follows:

- Mr Kevin Martin: Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher: kevin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk
- Miss Lisa Walsh: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, SENDCO and Early Help Leader sendco@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk

If any parent has a safeguarding concern or query about **ANY** child within our community, please email for advice.

IF ANY ADULT FEELS A CHILD OR ADULT MAY BE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER YOU MUST CALL MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) OR 999

"If you are worried about a child or young person in Devon and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child or young person worried about your own safety please contact the MASH on 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk and give as much information as you can." Devon Children and Families Partnership.

Covid Hardship Fund and the Test and Trace Support Payment

The council is processing applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment which is payment of £500 for people that have to self-isolate for 2 weeks.

Below is the link to apply for the Covid Hardship Fund and the Test and Trace Support Payment.

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Increasing food access during school holidays in Devon

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic is continuing to put a huge financial strain on some people. Employment situations are changing rapidly and for some their income now no longer covers what they need or they have lost their jobs completely.

Help is available. If you know someone who is worrying about money and how to pay for basic household essentials, please encourage them to apply for extra assistance through funding that we have made available via your District Council's hardship fund.

[Find out more about what support is available in Devon, including how to access local financial support, healthy start vouchers and free school meals, where to find foodbanks and community larders, free meals during the school holidays and what to do if you're on a low income and need to self-isolate.](#)

Spring term

A reminder that the Spring term commences on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

I hope you all get to enjoy a lovely Christmas.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Yours sincerely

Kevin Martin
Headteacher

What to do if you receive a Covid19 positive test result

Positive C19 test result received by child or staff member who attends Abbotskerswell Primary School.

Test result received on or before Tuesday 22nd December and symptoms first developed on Friday 18th, Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th December

Test result received on or before Tuesday 22nd December and symptoms first developed on Monday 21st or Tuesday 22nd December

Test result received on or after Wednesday 23rd December

Contact school IMMEDIATELY by emailing

kevin@abbotkserswell-primary.devon.sch.uk

Please state the following information:

Child / Staff Name

Date positive test result received

School do NOT need to be contacted. Please follow NHS Covid19 Advice

School do NOT need to be contacted. Please follow NHS Covid19 Advice

School do NOT need to be contacted if you are self-isolating over the Christmas holidays unless you receive a positive C19 test result (as above)

If you are self-isolating and this means your child will not be returning to school on Tuesday 5th January please email admin@abbotkserswell-primary.devon.sch.uk to let us know

ONLY Positive C19 Test result emails will be responded to over the Christmas Holidays.

Emails will not be checked after 3pm on Thursday 24th December 2020 until we return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Please continue to keep yourselves and others safe if you have to self-isolate over the Christmas Holidays.

Self-isolation is when you do not leave your home.

It's a legal requirement to self-isolate if you test positive or are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. You could be fined if you do not self-isolate.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>