



Abbotskerswell Primary School

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Friday 18th October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

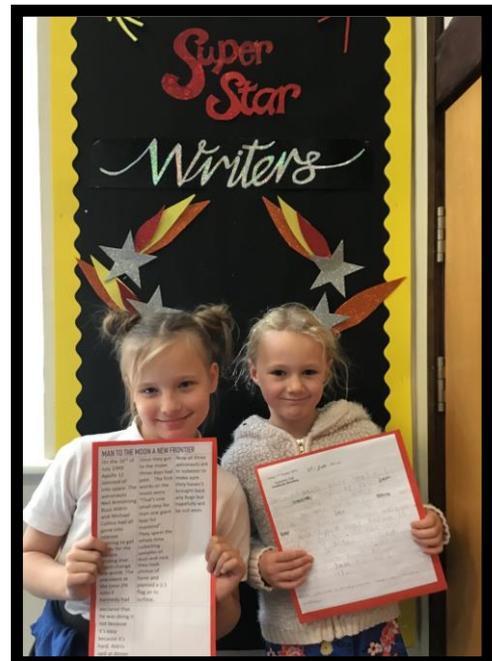
I can't believe how quickly this half term has flown by, it has certainly been busy, and no doubt with all of the Christmas preparations, next half term will be equally busy. As soon as we get back after half term, we have a number of exciting events planned for the children. I hope that you have an enjoyable and restful half term break. We will see you on Monday 28th October.

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: Olivia, Harrie, Aul-Nancy, Matilda & Darcy



Millie -Kingfisher class - a piece on the first moon landing

Rosie – Robin Class – a piece on re-telling the story of Goldilocks & the three bears

Harvest Festival

It was lovely to see so many parents at our Harvest festival yesterday, the children sang, read and performed beautifully.

A message from Hazel Harrison (Secretary of Teignbridge Homeless Action Today):

'Thank you to all who were involved in your harvest collection for the Foodbank. We are most grateful for your support. It is good to know that your young people are aware of the needs in their local community and to act in such a practical manner.

It was a busy summer for us due to the 'No Hungry Holidays Scheme' which added an additional 95 families per week to those using our Foodbank, amounting to an additional 475 food packs over this period.'



Clubs List

Children from all year groups are welcome to attend. As always, please sign up via Parentpay for these clubs. Gardening club is now finished until the Spring term.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Activity leader	Saints South West	Primary Sports	Primary Sports	Primary Sports	Primary Sports
	Adam Hayman	Dan Vile	Dan Vile	Dan Vile	Dan Vile
3.15-4.15	Tennis	Gymnastics	Dodgeball	Multi-skills	Football
4.15-5.15	Multi-activity	Multi-activity	Multi-activity	Multi-activity	Multi-activity
3.15-4.15	Music and Art club	History Club			

Music and Art club (Mart club)

If you love music and enjoy art, come join the Mart Club. Mrs Johns will be combining art and music to form a unique club!

Learning about different musical genres, listening to some classic tunes, over the 6 weeks you'll delve into Rock, Pop, Reggae, Indie, Country and R&B. Listening to lyrics and learning about the artists, you'll be inspired to create some amazing artwork! How would you draw a portrait of Bob Marley or illustrate the lyrics to "Big Yellow Taxi"?

Mondays 3.15 - 4.15

Start date: First Monday after half term

£18 for 6 sessions (£9 for Pupil Premium pupils)

Open to Yr 1 – Year 6 pupils

Please sign up via ParentPay.

Parents' Evenings

It was lovely to chat to so many parents at parents' evening this week. As always, this is an important time to review your child's learning and set learning goals for the coming term. It is one of the important ways that we hope parents can feel informed about your child's progress. We received very positive feedback about the progress information you were given on paper as well as the verbal feedback from teachers – thank you for this.

Early Help for Mental Health

This year one of our school priorities is to further develop the awareness within children and adults of the strategies to support their physical and mental wellbeing. Next half term we have a staff training session on mental health and well-being and we shall be developing our 10 Ways to Wellbeing with the children over the coming year.

Attendance - Did you know?

- If a child arrives at school 15 minutes late each day they lose almost 2 weeks of education a year!
- If a child attends school 90% of the time every school year they miss a whole year of school in their life.

The threshold of intervention on attendance is explained in the table below:

	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole days absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100 %	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30

	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Cause for Concern	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	75
	91%	173 days	17	85
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Serious Cause for Concern	86%	163 days	27	135
Critical	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	154 days	34	170
	81%	152 days	38	180

Our overall attendance figure for this week is **97.70%**. This is above both the Devon and National averages.

<i>Attendance this week</i>						
<i>Reception</i>	<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Year 4</i>	<i>Year 5</i>	<i>Year 6</i>
<i>98.48%</i>	<i>97.81%</i>	<i>99.34%</i>	<i>98.69%</i>	<i>98.01%</i>	<i>97.16%</i>	<i>94.38%</i>

Children's regular attendance at school is essential to ensure that they maximise their learning opportunities to achieve their full potential.

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.

School Art Club Christmas Cards

Each child has been asked to draw their own Christmas design which can then be transferred into Christmas Cards, Christmas Tags or a mug. Could these be returned to your child's class teacher on Monday 28th October along with the correct payment of cash or cheque. Cheques are made payable to Abbotskerswell PTFA. We will then forward your order on to School Art Club to be processed and it will be delivered back to us and distributed to your child to bring home.

Word of the Week

Vocabulary Ninja – *words unlock the doors to a world of understanding.*



This week's word is **ABUNDANCE**

Great writers use a range of words in their writing with precision and for impact. Great readers are able to explain the meanings of words and know about the subtle impact they can make on the reader. Below are some ideas of things to do;

- ✓ **Challenge your child to use the word correctly in a spoken sentence.**
- ✓ **Look up the word in the dictionary, does it have more than one meaning?**
- ✓ **Challenge older children to use the word in their writing.**
- ✓ **Look out for the word in your reading book.**
- ✓ **Help your child to remember how to spell the word – look for words in the word, break it into memorable chunks.**
- ✓ **Try making up a new sentence each day using the word.**
- ✓ **Make up a silly sentence using the word to help your child remember the word**

PTFA Messages

The PTFA have a variety of events to look forward to in the coming weeks.



The first is our much loved Halloween Disco, this to be held on Wednesday 30th November. Reception and KS1 children are invited from 5-6pm, KS2 can show off their moves from 6.15-7.15pm. Entry is £1.50 for each child and this includes a drink. We will have treats available to buy so bring some pocket money. As always, we request that Reception and KS1 children are accompanied by a parent for the time they are at the disco.

Bonfire Night is soon to be upon us and we will once again we will be providing food and drink at the fantastic village firework display on Saturday 9th November. We need an army of volunteers to help with all sorts of jobs, from pre cooking jacket potatoes, chillie, vegi chillie and sausages at home, set up from 2pm, serving food & drinks, BBQ cooking and clearing up at the end of the evening. There is a volunteer list up on the wall by the office. If you are able to help in any way it would be much appreciated.



School Photos

As you are aware the school photos have been taken today. Proofs will be sent home the week beginning Monday 28th October with your children. You can place your orders direct on-line and pay by credit/debit card or via the school office and make payment by cash/cheque. Final photos will be distributed to parents by the end of November at the latest.

Required Play Leader and Meal Time Assistant

The happy and friendly children of Abbotskerswell Primary School are looking for that special person who can look after them during a Monday lunchtime. Duties include supervising and initiating play outside as well as the supervision of children in the dining hall. This post is 1 day per week, Monday 12:30–1:30pm, although we would also welcome applications from candidates who have a desire to work more than 1 lunchtime per week.

Abbotskerswell Primary School is committed to safeguarding children and this post is subject to an enhanced DBS check. Please complete the Devon Support Staff application form which can be requested from the school office by emailing admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk or ringing 01626 353605.

Orchard Café

Over the October half term the café will be running a gossip and games session. This will take place on Wednesday 23rd October at 2-4pm. The cost is £4.50 each child which includes a seasonal treat.

Wednesday 30th October the café will be opening until 5pm for hot chocolate and cake treats before the school disco.

See attached poster details of Thursday 31st October.

School Website

We are currently in the process of changing our website which may cause some disruption to our existing one. Our brand new website will be up and running over the half term. Please keep a look out for it!

Approaching School

It has been brought to our attention recently that, unfortunately, there seems to be a lot of dog excrement being left by irresponsible dog owners on the pavements on the route to school. Please could we ask the parents and children to take extra care when walking into school.

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>October 2019</u>	
Friday 18 th October	Break up for ½ term
Tuesday 22 nd October	Primary Sports Holiday Club
Wednesday 23 rd October	Primary Sports Holiday Club
Monday 28 th October	Back to School
Wednesday 30 th October	Halloween Disco KS1 5-6pm, KS2 6.15-7.15pm (All KS1 parents to stay for the duration of the disco please)
<u>November 2019</u>	
Wednesday 6 th November	Swift Class trip to Coldharbour Mill
Saturday 9 th November	Village Firework Night – PTFA providing food & drink – Volunteers required please
Wednesday 13 th November	Year 5&6 Netball Festival at NAC
Tuesday 19 th November	Nasal Flu Vaccinations all years
Friday 29 th November	Puffin & Robin Class St. Andrew's Day Celebrations
<u>December 2019</u>	
Thursday 12 th December	2.45pm - Puffins and Robins Nativity
Monday 16 th December	2pm – KS2 Carol service (Church)
Tuesday 17 th December	KS2 Choir Singing (Mallands)
Wednesday 18 th December	School Christmas lunch
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 19 th December	PTFA Christmas treat – Theatre Alibi performance (I believe in Unicorns)
Thursday 19 th December	Pm – Christmas games/parties
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term

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