



# Abbotskerswell Primary School

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Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## Drop off and collection times

Just to remind parents of the drop off and collection times for each class. Thank you to those parents who are being considerate of others and arriving in their allocated time slots. The government guidelines remains to keep a 2m distance from other people. If you feel that this is not possible then you may want to consider wearing a face mask at these times.

	Drop off	Collection
Kingfisher	8.45am – 8.50am	3.10pm
Swift	8.50am – 8.55am	3.15pm
Robin	8.55am – 9am	3.20pm
Puffins	9.00am – 9.05am	3.05pm

## Positives

During our staff meeting this week, all of the teachers shared some of the things that are going well. It was really quite warming to focus on those things that are going well and reflect on these positives. We often focus on areas of improvement and the next steps and sometimes forget to appreciate our achievements and the achievements of others. It was lovely to hear about individual children and the progress they are making, the quality of work the children have achieved and the depth of discussions going on. It was great to see how proud the teachers were sharing the positive experiences of their class and of the children in their care. During these challenging times, this maybe something for everyone to give a go.

## Thank you

At this point, I would like to say how thankful I am for such a dedicated, hard working and supportive staff team. The job role for many of our staff has changed over the past 6 months, with the staff being asked to carry out additional duties, not necessarily part of their job descriptions. All of the staff have supported myself and each other in doing this to ensure that the school is as safe as it can be for the children and we continue to offer a full broad and balanced curriculum.

## Parents' Evenings

I can now confirm that parents' evenings will take place remotely through a system called 'Schoolcloud' during the penultimate week of term wb 7<sup>th</sup> December for children in Robins, Swift and Kingfisher. The appointment times are listed below. Further details on how to book your appointment will be emailed via Parentpay over the next couple of days.



### Appointment times offered:

Robins	Monday 3.40pm – 4.40pm	Tuesday 3.40pm – 6.00pm	Wednesday 3.40pm – 6.00pm	Thursday 3.40pm – 6.00pm
Swift (Miss Walsh)	Wednesday 3.40pm - 4.50pm	Thursday 3.40pm – 4.50pm	Friday 3.40pm – 4.40pm	
Swift (Mrs Pearson)	Tuesday 3.40pm – 4.50pm	Wednesday 3.40pm - 4.50pm	Thursday 3.40pm – 4.50pm	
Kingfisher	Monday 3.30pm – 6.10pm	Tuesday 3.30pm – 6.30pm		

### **Remembrance Day**

On Wednesday children across the school observed the 2 minutes silence and listened to the church bells as they rang out across the village. All week the children have been purchasing Poppy items and they have raised an amazing **£142.72** Well done everyone!



The children in KS2 spent the first part of the day looking at the lyrics of a song called 'No man's land'. They discussed the themes of the song and how it links to remembrance day. Here are some examples of how the children summed up the poem:

Remembrance - We can remember everyone who fought to save our country and those who died saving our country (Harry)

Cooperation - The soldiers had to cooperate to be able to fight in the the wars. (Imelda)

Courage – Soldiers sacrificed their lives for other people (Betty)

Determination- They went and they weren't scared. They did it so we can all be here today. (Eleanor)

Grateful- I am grateful for the people who fought in the war and I feel sorry for them. I am lucky I don't have to fight in a war. (Maria)

Thankful- The soldiers risked their lives for us and some didn't return. (Matilda)

### **Puffin Class**

The children in Puffin Class made some beautiful poppies out of paper plates.



## Children in Need

It was great to see so many of the children really make an effort and come dressed in clothing to support Children in Need. We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Pearson who carried out a short Wellbeing Yoga workshop with each class. The children learnt some breathing techniques, meditation poses and had a chance to talk about the importance of caring for their own mental health.



Through the children's donations we have so far managed to raise an amazing **£205.00** for Children in Need.

If you still wish to make a donation please click on this link <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=1487> which will take you direct to our School Children in Need donation page.



## Nasal Flu Vaccinations

The whole school Nasal Flu vaccinations are taking place in school next Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. If you have not already consented please complete the link below. If you have any queries or need support to complete the electronic consent, please call the Immunisation Team on 0300 247 0082. The link to complete the electronic consent is <https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon>



## Attention Years 2-6

We are excited to announce we will be launching a 'Battle of the Bands' competition. We are asking children in these year groups to use 'Times tables Rock Stars'. The competition will run weekly from Friday afternoon through to Thursday afternoon with the winning year group each week receiving an extra playtime organised by their class teacher.

Year groups will collectively earn points to collate a year group total at the end of the week; each correct answer you submit on any TT Rock Stars game (Garage, Rock Slam, Sound Check etc.) will earn you 1 point – the more points **YOU** earn the more chance your year group has of the extra play. You will still earn your TT Rock Stars coins to spend in their online shop as normal but these won't count towards the competition.

Not only will the winning year group receive their extra play time but the highest contributor each week will win themselves a certificate and prize too! The winners will be announced in the weekly newsletter and be displayed on our TT Rock Stars display in the hall.

Parents, times tables are a vital part of the Maths curriculum and it is therefore so important that the children learn them. TT Rock Stars is an excellent online resource that has a proven impact on supporting the learning of times tables, please encourage your children to make use of it on a regular basis. It doesn't need to be used for hours on end and is most effective for a majority of children when just used in short 10-15 minute bursts. TT Rock Stars is designed for children to make progress through the times tables at their own pace, only moving on to the next table when secure and achieving within a certain time frame in the previous. For your information the expectations for children learning their times tables are as follows:

- Year 1: Count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. Recall and use doubles to 10 and corresponding halves.
- Year 2: Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.
- Year 3: Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables.
- Year 4: Recall and use multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12x12.
- Years 5 and 6: Revision of all times tables and division facts up to 12x12.

Children's [Times Tables Rock Stars](#) logins were given to them at the start of the year and are the same as their logins for Education City. If you have any problems logging in, please contact the school office. A link to the website can be found on the pupil page of our school website.



A new online After School Sport Club has launched to help fill the void of school and community sport in children's lives created by the latest lockdown.

Created by the Youth Sport Trust, children will be able to tune in from home and enjoy being led through a range of fun, exciting and challenging activities which will help young people stay fit and healthy while also supporting their broader personal development. The daily online 'club' sessions will be led by [YST athlete mentors](#) including former British sprinter Jeanette Kwakye and Paralympian Kate Grey.

The club will run every day at 5pm from 16 November for five weeks until 18 December.

For further details please click on the link <https://www.youthsporttrust.org/AfterSchoolSportClub>

### **SOE3a Consent Forms**

Thank you to the parents who have returned their completed forms. We still have a few forms outstanding. Could parents please complete these and email them to [admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk) or send it to school via your child. More details can be found on the email sent via Parentpay on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**The Parent Progression Team** is working in partnership with the Action For Children Children's Centres, to support parents across Devon who wish to have support to gain employment.

They take referrals for parents who have at least one child under the age of 8 yrs, who is living in their household.

They can help parents improve their job skills, work experience and work confidence. They do this by supporting them to identify and complete suitable learning and/or volunteering placements.

They complete a Work Star assessment and action plan with the parent, which helps them to create a plan of action for achieving their individual short term or long term work goals. They have regular telephone meetings with parents throughout the support period and can work with parents up to 4-6 months depending on need.

They can also support parents to improve their employability skills, such as helping them create a CV and prepare for interviews.

Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

## Well-being

Improve your wellbeing with Learn Devon's Mindfulness Challenge.

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on people's mental health in Devon may currently be difficult to determine, but to help you look after your own wellbeing during the national lockdown, you're invited to sign up to Learn Devon's "Mindfulness Challenge".

The five-day challenge, which launches on Monday 16 November, features a series of short videos that provide you with useful techniques and tips to help your mind and wellbeing. Each day will focus on different ways to help with focus, concentration, relaxation, coping with anxiety, as well as stretches for desk workers.

If you sign up for the challenge, you'll receive an email each morning with a link to the day's video that you can watch on-demand, in your own time.

<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/improve-your-wellbeing-with-learn-devons-mindfulness-challenge/>

Yours sincerely

Kevin Martin  
Headteacher

## Key Dates

<b>November</b>	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Whole School Flu Vaccinations
<b>December</b>	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunches
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term
	MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR
<b>January</b>	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring term commences

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



### **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/>

#### **Covid-19 Symptoms:**

- a high temperature (feeling hot to touch on your chest or back)
- OR
- a new, continuous cough (coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24h, or if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- OR
- a loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste (noticing you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal)

We are aware that there have been some significant problems with access to COVID-19 testing. You will have seen on the news that this is not unique to Devon but none the less is of significant concern. Devon County Council and PHE have escalated this regionally and nationally but it is unlikely we will see a rapid improvement.

The below are the steps, in order, that should be followed to secure a test:

- **Individuals should only get tested if they have symptoms of coronavirus.**
- Parents or carers of children attending school or school staff with symptoms of coronavirus should book a test as normal via the [government website](#) or by calling 119.
- If you are unable to book a local testing slot then:
  - a. Individuals should complete the appropriate forms by following the links below:
    - Children under the age of 5: [Urgent Referral Form - Under 5's](#)
    - School aged Children (5-18): [School Aged Children](#)
    - NHS/Health/Care workers: [NHS/Health/Care Professionals](#)
    - All other individuals: [Urgent Referral Form - Adults](#)

#### **COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection**

Please click on the link below to read Government advice on steps to be taken if a member of your household has coronavirus symptoms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>