



Abbotskerswell Primary School

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Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Goodbye

Unfortunately Mr Brown, our peripatetic music teacher, has informed us that for health reasons he is no longer able to continue music teaching. I know that he has informed all of the parents personally of the children who were having lessons with him, and I know they will be saddened also by this. We would like to thank Mr Brown and wish him all the best. In the Spring term, we will be looking at recruiting a peripatetic music teacher to join our team.

Message from Mr Brown

'I say this with a heavy heart and I am really sorry for any disappointment. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching at Abbotskerswell and I wish you and everyone at school the best for the future.'

Parents' Evening

Thank you to those parents who have already booked their appointment with their child's teacher. As mentioned last week, parents' evening will take place remotely through a system called 'Schoolcloud' during the penultimate week of term on 7th December for children in Robins, Swift and Kingfisher.

The appointment times are listed below. For further details on how to book please click on the link <https://abbotskerswell.schoolcloud.co.uk> and see the email sent via Parentpay on 13th November 2020. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Becky or Marie in the office and they can book the appointment for you.

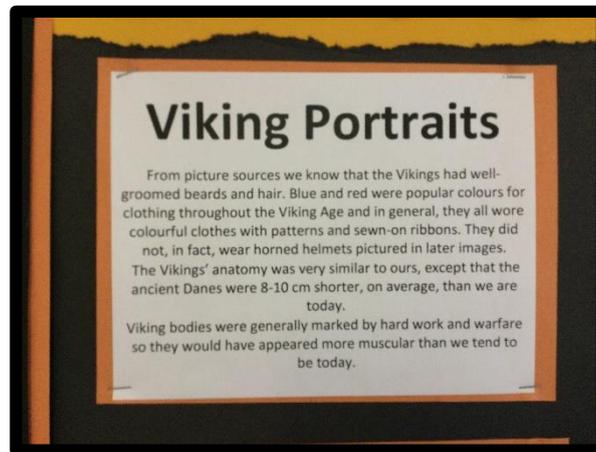
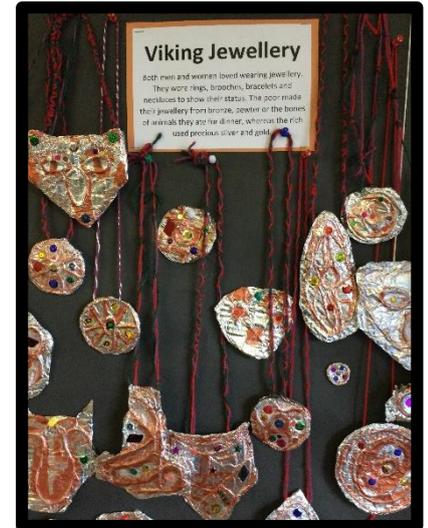


Appointment times offered:

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		

Kingfisher Class

The children have been creating a Viking Museum with portraits, Viking Jewellery and Viking Warriors.



School Improvement

This week, Mr Chidler (maths lead in our school), led part of our staff meeting on developments in maths teaching. As a school we really value this professional development for all of our staff to ensure we continue to get the best outcomes for the children in our school. This professional development will be centered around our whole school priorities for this year. These are:

- To improve the physical and mental wellbeing of pupils, staff and parents
- Raise attainment and progress in maths across the school, developing a conceptual understanding
- To ensure learning is tailored to meet the needs of all pupils
- To embed the new PSHE / SRE curriculum across the school
- Further develop our whole school curriculum (intention, implementation, Impact)

School lunches

Thank you to the parents who have provided feedback to us on the school lunches, both positives and areas where improvements can be made. This information is fed back to our catering team. I will send out a parent questionnaire near the end of term to get specific feedback on yours/your child's views on lunches near the end of term.

Absence procedures – first day absence

Just to give a reminder about the procedures for informing the school if your child is unwell or is not going to be in school. Parents are expected to phone the school office to inform the school of their child's absence. The school office is open from 8.30am if you would like to speak to someone, alternatively you can leave a message on the answerphone. Parents should inform the school office of absences not class teachers.

If parents do not phone the school with any reason for absence, the office staff will endeavour to phone the contact numbers you have given us by 10:00am to ascertain a reason for absence. If the school still hasn't heard from the family after repeated phone calls by 1.00pm then a member of staff may visit the home. If nobody is at home, then MASH maybe contacted or the police may be called as we have a duty of care for the children.

Rock Star Results!

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



Year 4!



A huge well done to them and all of the children who contributed to their exceptionally high score.

This week's individual winners were...

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Fabio aka. Richard Rock	Finn aka. Ralph Vasoli	Matteo aka. Dan Nicholls	Will aka. Ko Marvin	Nathaniel aka. Gregg Bon

The next competition kicks off again after school today with team points reset to zero. The other year groups are determined to knock Year 4 off the podium. Friendly rivalry has also begun amongst the teachers now a prize has been added for them based on the cumulative score of their year groups at the end of term.

Remember... 1 point for every correct answer in any games played!

Happy Rocking!



School Photos

For those parents who placed orders, the photos have been sent home with your child today. The photos of your children are lovely. Should you have any queries with your order you can contact the photographer direct at www.russellwilcoxphotography.com

Free School Meals/Pupil Premium

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at state schools in England automatically get universal free school meals (UFSM). However, parents are encouraged to apply for free school meals (FSM) when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support learning, so please register if you are eligible, even if your child does not want a school dinner. This also applies to existing families where your circumstances may have changed or you think you maybe in a position to be entitled to this.

Children with Pupil Premium funding are eligible for certain subsidies such as:

- **A reduction of 50% for all trips and residentials**
- **A reduction of 50% for all school clubs, including breakfast and afterschool sessions**

If you receive any of the following benefits you may be eligible:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit.

Children who receive any of the above benefits in their own right (i.e. they get benefits payments directly, instead of through a parent or guardian) can also get free school meals.

How to apply:

Apply through the <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

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 or send it to school via your child. More details can be found on the email sent via Parentpay on 23rd September.



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>

Yours sincerely

Kevin Martin
Headteacher

Key Dates

December	
Friday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Lunches
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term
	MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR
January	
Tuesday 5 th 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>

Parent Information

Early Year Pupil Premium

It is quick and easy to find out if your childcare provider can claim EYPP funding to support your child.

What is the Early Years Pupil Premium funding (EYPP)?

EYPP is extra Government funding to boost your three- or four-year old's early learning experience. **The Nursery, Pre-School or Childminder** that you use, could get an extra 53p per hour your child attends for the universal Early Years Entitlement also known as the 15hrs (it does not apply to the Extended Entitlement also known as 30hrs). This could mean up to £300 extra a year to help your child's learning.

Your Early Years provider will work with you to decide how best to spend the money and when Ofsted inspect they will check to see how the additional money is used to support your child.

Who could benefit from this money?

Any 3 or 4-year-old receiving the Early Years Funding (15hrs) in a Nursery, Pre-School or at a Childminders:

Children may be eligible if parents have an income under £16,190 and claim some benefits.

Or if

- the child is currently being looked after by a local authority in England or Wales
the child has left care in England or Wales through adoption or a special guardianship or a child arrangement order.