



Abbotskerswell Primary School

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Friday 13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Art workshop – supported by the Helen Foundation

On Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd June, children in year 6 will be taking part in a Helen Foundation supported workshop facilitated by a local artist James Hedge.

The artist will incorporate our children's designs to create four canvasses measuring 1m x 1m with each canvas expressing one of our school values.

School lunches

Last term we asked parents to complete a parent questionnaire form about school. We were very pleased with the positive responses we received. One area that scored lower was the feedback around school lunches. Our current contract with our catering company is coming up for renewal and this is giving us an opportunity to look at the lunches we provide. Please find a link to a survey monkey questionnaire. As many responses as possible would be helpful in order for us to push forward with this. The survey should only take 2 minutes to complete. In addition to this, we will also be carrying out a survey with the children to get their views and opinions.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9DRKBGX>

Year 2 & 3 Football Match

Despite the wet and cold weather on Monday, a group of 9 Year 2 and 3 children braved an outdoor football match against another local school, St Joseph's. The team had never played together before and their only practice was a quick kick around on Monday lunch time. The children's spirits were high as we arrived and we quickly saw the children pull together as a team. The match was level at 0-0 for most of the match until Frankie R scored the first goal of the match (a very impressive one too!).

The children continued with their awesome level of play, swapping positions and subs throughout the match. Unfortunately, St Joes scored a late goal equalising the match with 1-1 being the final score. The children did themselves very proud not only with the standard of football they played but also because of the team work, perseverance and determination they showed throughout as well as their outstanding behaviour. The staff were all very proud!

A special thank you must go to Mr Vile for organising and refereeing the match and to the parents for transporting their children.



Required Play Leader and Meal Time Assistant

The happy and friendly children of our School are looking for that special person who can look after them at lunchtimes. Duties include supervising and initiating play outside as well as the supervision of children in the dining hall. This post is 5 days per week 12:30pm – 1:30pm, although equally one or two days would be welcome.

Abbotskerswell Primary School is committed to safeguarding children and this post is subject to an enhanced DBS check. If you are interested, please speak to Becky or Marie by emailing admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk, ringing 01626 353605 or popping into the school office.

Coronavirus update

Since my message last week, the World Health Organisation (WHO) (11.3.20) has declared Coronavirus a Pandemic. This is the definition that the WHO gives to a new disease for which people do not have an immunity that spreads across the world beyond what would be considered normal levels.

For now, advice from Public Health England is that: We need to keep things running as normally as possible. This includes keeping children in school, keeping them educated. To ensure that parents, families and carers can continue to work and carry out their normal activities, to keep our economy going and protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

We are aware that families in our school are becoming increasingly anxious and concerned by the Coronavirus and the uncertainty that awaits us.

Please be reassured that we are monitoring updates and advice rigorously from the Department of Education (DfE), Department of Health, Public Health England (PHE) and the including up-to-date guidance from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Please can parents and carers support us in maintaining high standards of basic pupil hand and hygiene, by encouraging thorough hand washing at home and the use of tissues, when coughing or sneezing. The following poster has some useful reminders:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869250/Coronavirus_advice_for_educational_settings_poster.pdf

If you have coronavirus symptoms, then the advice from PHE is to stay at home for 7 days

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough

I recognise that this is uncharted territory for us all, and I cannot emphasise enough that we acknowledge the difficulty many of you will be experiencing at home in coming to terms with this situation, the anxiety you may be feeling for yourselves and your loved ones, and your concerns about balancing your own commitments as well as what is going on in school. I want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to ensure we have the latest information and we have put together an Emergency Management Plan, which outlines how we would respond to the situation. The teachers have prepared work for the children and this will be shared with attached links via ParentPay as well as through the school website.

School Closure notifications

In the event that we close the school, parents will be made aware by:

- A message going out on ParentPay
- A message will be put on the school Facebook page
- A message will be put on the school website
- A message will be put on the front of the school gate

- A message will go out on the local radio stations and their websites

How to avoid catching or spreading germs

There are things you can do to help stop viruses like coronavirus spreading.

Do

- ✓ cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- ✓ put used tissues in the bin immediately
- ✓ wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- ✓ try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Don't

- ✗ do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Puffins & Robins | St Patrick's Day

Puffins and Robins will be celebrating St Patrick's Day on Tuesday 17th March with a focus on Northern Ireland. Puffins and Robins can come dressed in themed clothing, such as the colours of the flag, green for shamrock, etc. The official flag for Northern Ireland is the UK's Union Flag.



Clubs list

Children from all year groups are welcome to attend. As always, please sign up via Parentpay for these clubs.

This week's clubs:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Activity leader	Saints South West	Primary Sports	Primary Sports	Primary Sports	Primary Sports
	Jay Osborn	Dan Vile	Dan Vile	Dan Vile	Dan Vile
3.15-4.15	Cricket	Tag Rugby	Multi Activity (golf, athletics, gymnastics, dodgeball)	Dance	Football
4.15 – 5.15	Multi-skills, multi-activity, computing, reading and homework club				

Felicity House will again be running the History Club which will commence on Tuesday 14th April and will run for 10 weeks. The cost is a one off payment of £1. If you wish your child to attend please book via Parentpay.

Parentpay - Debts

We are very lenient where parent/carers need to book sessions last minute but this does cause a debt on Parentpay. One or two sessions are fine to carry over for a few days until you next log on, but we now have a lot of Parentpay accounts with quite high accumulated debt balances. We politely request that all payments are made at the time of booking so this situation does not continue to arise.

We are asking that parents sign up for breakfast and after school activity clubs via Parentpay, as we need to ensure our staff ratio is in line with the numbers we are expecting. In addition to this, we need to know who we are expecting for safety reasons, so that we can follow up non-arrivals with a call if necessary. The cut off is the Thursday evening before the following week so that we are able to plan ahead.

Staff Bake Off

We were planning an exciting staff "Bake Off" competition to raise money for Stand Up To Cancer on Wednesday 25th March - however due to the current health situation we are postponing this event until later in the school year. (Time for Mr Chidler to take some cookery lessons!!!)



Attendance

Our overall attendance figure for this week is **95.92%**. This is slightly below Devon and National averages. Our weekly target is 97%.

Attendance this week						
Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
92.81%	92.59%	95.14%	99.26%	95.83%	96.53%	99.30%

Well done to Year 6 who have the best attendance this week.

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 blue trays 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.

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

Word of the week - Resilience



Please take time to talk to your child about the word. 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.**

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.

Kevin Martin
Headteacher

Key Dates

<u>March 2020</u>	
Tuesday 17 th March	Puffin & Robin St Patrick's Day Celebration
Wednesday 18 th March	Music Performance for Guitar children @2.40pm
Thursday 19 th March	Timid to Tiger Coffee morning @9am in the school hall
Thursday 19 th 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
Friday 27 th March	PTFA organised Easter Egg hunt
<u>April 2020</u>	
Tuesday 14 th April	First day back at school for children
<u>May 2020</u>	
Monday 4 th May	Reception Festival at NAC 9.30-11.45am
Wednesday 6 th May	Class Photos
Friday 8 th May	Bank Holiday – VE Day 75 th Anniversary
W/B 11 th May	Key Stage 2 Sats week
Monday 18 th May	Year 5/6 Cricket Competition 12-4pm
Monday 18 th May	Full Governors Meeting – 6pm
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of half term
<u>June 2020</u>	
Monday 1 st June	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 2 nd June	First day back at school for children
Tuesday 2 nd June	Art Workshop

Wednesday 3 rd June	Year 1/2 Fun Athletics at NAC 1-3pm
Wednesday 3 rd June	Art Workshop
Friday 5 th June	Year 5/6 Girls cricket competition 12-4pm
Wednesday 17 th June	Sports Day – morning only
Wednesday 24 th June	Sports Day backup date – morning only
<u>July 2020</u>	
Friday 3 rd July	PTFA Fundraising event at Torbay Leisure Centre (whole school)
Thursday 16 th July	Whole school reward trip
Friday 17 th July	Last day of term