



# ABBOTS FARM INFANT SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER -8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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[www.abbotsfarm-inf.org](http://www.abbotsfarm-inf.org)

### WELCOME

A warm welcome back to all our families — and a special welcome to our new Reception and Preschool children and their parents. We're delighted you've chosen Abbots Farm Infant School to begin your child's learning journey.

The children have returned full of stories and excitement, and it's been lovely hearing about their holiday adventures.

Over the summer, the council installed improved road signage to help reinforce parking restrictions around the school. We kindly ask all parents and carers to follow these rules to help keep everyone safe.

Each newsletter will include a calendar of key dates for the term. Please note that these dates may be subject to change, so we encourage you to check regularly for updates.

### MEDICINES

If your child has an inhaler or requires medicine at any point in the year we need you to fill out a medical form. These can be picked up from the school office or downloaded from our school website.

<https://abbotsfarm-inf.org/parents/absence-and-medical-information/>

Medicines should be handed into the office with the required dose put in a syringe.

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Here are the clubs we are running this half term for years 1 and 2:

Day	Club	Details
Monday	Gymnastics	With Metcalf in the hall from 3:15 – 4:15pm
Tuesday	Multi sports	With Metcalf in the hall from 3:15 – 4:15pm
Thursday	Tang Soo Doo	With Mr Dove in the hall from 3:15 – 4:00pm
	Starting with Art	With Natalie in Bumble Bees from 3:15 – 4:15pm
Friday	Football	With Metcalf in the hall from 3:15 – 4:15pm

### ASSEMBLIES

We would like to welcome parents/carers to watch their child's class assemblies. These will start at 9:05 in the hall unless otherwise stated.

Cricket	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September
Bumble Bees	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October
Dragonflies	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October
Fireflies	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October

### ABSENCE

If your child is ill we have 3 ways you can let us know they won't be in school and why. This needs completing before 9am.

- 1) Phone the school office on 01788 543093
- 2) Email the school office at [admin2410@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2410@welearn365.com)
- 3) Use the Studybugs app:



Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>



Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health  
See what illnesses are going around  
Secure system, all communications encrypted

## CHANGES FOR 25-26

This year, we're placing a strong emphasis on improving children's handwriting across the school. To support this, we've increased the number of handwriting sessions each week. Pupils will take part in a whole-class handwriting lesson, followed by at least two small group sessions.

These small group lessons will begin promptly at **8:50am**, before assembly, so it's essential that children arrive at school on time to benefit fully.

We're also making changes to our home learning approach. Instead of the familiar bingo grids, children will now bring home a weekly handwriting sheet to complete. At the end of each half term, children who have completed all their sheets will receive a reward for their effort and consistency.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us raise standards in handwriting.

## WHAT TO DO IF I AM CONCERNED ABOUT MY CHILD

At Abbots Farm Infants we endeavour to work together with families to give the best learning experience possible. However, if there are times that you are concerned about your child or feel you need to share any relevant information with us, please follow the guidance below.

- 1) Where possible, see your child's class teacher first. They are around in their classrooms until 3:30pm. Please wait until all of the other children have left before talking to the teacher.
- 2) If this is not possible, you can make an appointment with the class teacher at the office.
- 3) If your concern is ongoing, please make an appointment to see Mrs Lovejoy (Headteacher), Miss Bull (Deputy Head) or Miss Hetherington (Assistant Head & SENCO).

You can also use Class Dojo to send messages to teachers and Mrs Lovejoy.

## REMINDER FOR PARENTS – START OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Our classroom gates close at 8:50am. Anyone arriving after this time will need to sign their child in at the school office and complete a late form.

## READING

All children in KS1 will have brought home a reading record diary for you to record reading at home. Our reception children will receive their diaries once we begin phonics.

The children take home a book matched to the phonics they have been taught and a book they have chosen from their classroom home reading box. The phonics based book is for your child to read to you and the book they have chosen is for you to read together.

We also have Bug Club online resource to support phonic based reading:



<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>

To promote reading for pleasure we have the Reading Rainbow. All children have a red coloured card in the back of their reading diary for parents to initial each day when children have read or shared a book with an adult. This is any book other than their phonic book so it can be one of our home reading books, a book from the library or a book from home. When this is full, they will bring it to Mrs Lovejoy to collect their certificate. They will then get a new card in the next colour of the rainbow to complete and they will move their picture on their year group reading rainbow. If at the end of the year they are in the pot of gold, they will receive a gift in recognition for their effort in reading.

We are hoping to get our school library up and running again this year. If you have an afternoon to spare a week and could volunteer, please get in touch with the school office.

## PAYMENTS

We use a payment system called School Comms. This provides you with an app where you can make payments for Bug Club, Preschool and any trips/visits or events we have in school. For our new children login details will be sent out shortly.



## WAKE AND SHAKE

On a Tuesday morning from 8:30 – 8:45 Jacob will be leading a wake and shake dance session for children and their parents. Please join us in the hall for the first one on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

When the session has finished please take you child round to their classroom gate.



## COFFEE AFTERNOON

Mrs Lovejoy and Miss Bull would like to invite you to attend a coffee afternoon from 2:30 – 3:15pm on the following dates:

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October for parents of children in Preschool and Reception
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October for parents of children in year 1 and 2

This is an opportunity for you to come and chat to us and ask any questions and also to get to know other parents.

We will be running these throughout the year and would like to invite services that you may find useful to join us. Please let us know if there is anything you would like help with.



## DIARY

*(Dates are subject to change)*

### September:

16<sup>th</sup> – Governor Meeting

25<sup>th</sup> – Crickets Assembly

### October:

2<sup>nd</sup> – Bumble Bees Assembly

- Coffee Afternoon (EYFS) 2:30 – 3:15pm

9<sup>th</sup> – Dragonflies Assembly

- Coffee Afternoon (KS1) 2:30 – 3:15pm

14<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Assembly

16<sup>th</sup> – Yr 2 Choral Outreach Day

- Fireflies Assembly

17<sup>th</sup> – School Photos

Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> – Parents Evenings

21<sup>st</sup> – Diwali Celebration

### 27<sup>th</sup> r– 31<sup>st</sup> October Half term

### November:

3<sup>rd</sup> – **School Closed – Teacher Training**

4<sup>th</sup> – Flu immunisations

7<sup>th</sup> – Yr 1 Fire Safety workshop

11<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Silence

14<sup>th</sup> – Children in need

25<sup>th</sup> – Governor Meeting

### December:

Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas performances

16<sup>th</sup> – Theatre Visit

17<sup>th</sup> – Christmas dinner

**22<sup>nd</sup> December – 5<sup>th</sup> January Christmas Holidays. School Reopens on 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Additional information will be sent nearer the time.**

## SCHOOL MEALS

Please make sure you are ordering your child's lunch by 9am each day by logging into:

<https://select.stirfood.co.uk/>

The current menu can be viewed here:

<https://abbotsfarm-inf.org/core-menu-2025/>



**YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY**

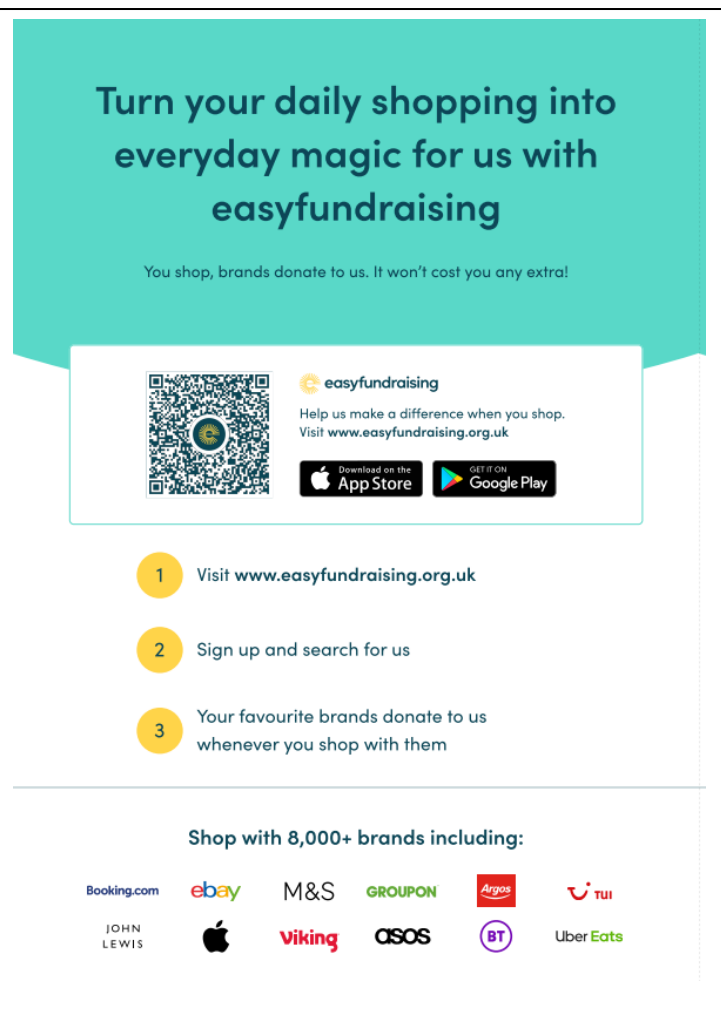
**WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY**

Buy your tickets now to help our fundraising

- Tickets cost just £1
- All profits go to our school
- Local cash prize every week
- Chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!


To start supporting, visit:  
**yourschoollottery.co.uk**  
and search for: **Abbots Farm Infant**



GamblieAware 18+



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## LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wight 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

**The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.**

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
  - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
  - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.**