



ABBOTS FARM INFANT SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER -January 2026

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Happy New Year!

We hope you've had a great Christmas and we have enjoyed welcoming the children back to school today enthusiastic and happy to see their friends.

On this newsletter there is a calendar for this term. These dates are subject to change so please check regularly.

ASSEMBLIES

These will start at 9:05 in the hall.

Crickets	Thursday 22 nd January
Bumble Bees	Thursday 29 th January
Dragonflies	Thursday 5 th February
Fireflies	Thursday 5 th March
Ladybirds	Thursday 12 th March
Butterflies	Thursday 19 th March

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

The weather has turned colder and is expected to stay that way for some time. As you know, some of our learning takes place outdoors. Please make sure your child comes to school with a warm coat, hat, and gloves.

We do have a small selection of good-quality coats, hats, and gloves that have been kindly donated. If you need any support with this, please feel free to pop into the office

Please ensure your child has a named pair of wellies in school. We give our children access to outdoor learning throughout the day and at this time of year shoes can get very muddy which leads to our classrooms becoming muddy.



We have children in school with severe nut allergies. This includes products containing nut products such as almond oil. Please do not send your child into school with any nut based products. All medication (including creams, even if it has not been prescribed by a doctor) needs to come in through the school office and a form completed.

PARENTS EVENING

Virtual Parents' Evening appointments will be held during the week commencing 9th February. These meetings will take place via School Cloud, which will also be used to book your appointment slots. We will let you know when the booking system goes live.

On Friday 30th January, you will receive your child's progress report. This report will form the basis of the discussion during your appointment with the class teacher.

Parents of children in Year 1 and Year 2 are warmly invited to visit the school after hours on Thursday 26th February to look through their child's books. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the progress your child has made.

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://abbotfarm-inf.org/medical-form-2-sided-nov-2024-2/>

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

PRESCHOOL & BUG CLUB

Additional sessions are now available in **Preschool** and **Bug Club** on a convenient pay-as-you-need basis. This is a great opportunity to give your child extra time to learn, play, and grow in a supportive environment. To book a session or find out more, please contact the school office at admin2410@welearn365.com .

BAD WEATHER PROCEDURES

As winter approaches and snow is expected, please be aware of our procedures:

- **Start of the Day:** We aim to keep both schools open, but closures or delayed starts may occur if safety cannot be guaranteed. Decisions will be made by 8:00am and communicated via text, school websites, Class Dojo, social media, Warwickshire school closures site, and local radio.
- **During the Day:** If weather worsens, parents may collect children early. Schools may close early for safety, but will remain open until all children are collected.

Please ensure we have your current contact details and keep phones switched on during severe weather. For any questions, contact either headteacher. Thank you for your support.

DIARY

(Dates are subject to change)

January:

12th - Reception height & weight check
20th – Governors meeting
22nd – Crickets Assembly at 9:05am
29th – Bumble Bees Assembly at 9:05am
30th – Progress reports sent home

February:

5th - Dragonflies Assembly at 9:05am
Week beginning 9th Feb – Mental Health week
10th – Safer Internet Day
Week beginning 9th – Parents evenings

16th – 20th February Half term

25th – Parent workshop – Understanding anxiety (part 1) from 9-10am
26th – Yr 1 Agility competition

March:

3rd - Parent workshop – Understanding anxiety (part 2) from 9-10am
5th – World Book Day

- Fireflies Assembly

12th – Ladybirds Assembly at 9:05am
13th – Class photos
17th – Governors meeting
19th – Butterflies Assembly at 9:05am
25th – Easter Bonnet Parade
27th – **School Closed: Training Day**

30th March – 10th April Easter Holidays.
School reopens on 13th April.

More details will follow.



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 Wright 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.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

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.