

Around Abbots Farm



Your inside scoop on all things AFIS!



Leading with Lovejoy: A Peek into Our Headteacher's World

CALEB YR, LUCY Y2, SHAY YR

Did you know she once wanted to be a **dancer...** or a **solicitor**? Luckily for us, she chose teaching!

- **Favourite meal?** Lasagna and Spanish tapas
- **Favourite holiday spot?** Turkey – “I love relaxing with a book and exploring historic sites.”
- **If the school won the lottery?** “I’d invest in outdoor spaces and an extra classroom!”
- **Favourite part of being a headteacher?** “Watching your learning and hearing about your books and adventures!”

The interview in full:

Do you like your job? Yes, I do like my job because it's something different every day and I like making a difference.

Where do you like to go on holiday? Probably one of my favourite places to go to go on holiday is Turkey. I've been there lots of times before.

Why do you like it there? I like it there because I can relax with a book and sit round the pool and enjoy the sunshine. There are exciting places to go on day trips and you can visit lots of historical sites.

If the school won the lottery, what would you spend it on? I think I would like exciting new things on the outside grounds. And it would be quite nice to have an additional room for you all. I think sometimes when you are all busy and we split off into groups, like when you are doing Phonics, it would be nice to have another room that you could go into. Something outdoors as well would be nice for that!

Who else lives in your house? In my house there is me and my husband. I have two sons, one of them is 20. He's away at university at the minute, but he comes back for holidays. And then my other son is 17. My children's grandma lives with us as well.

Did you watch YouTube when you were a child? Probably not when I was your age. When I was your age I did lots of dancing, ballet, tap and jazz dancing. So when I was your age, I would have liked to have been a dancer. And then when I got a little bit bigger, I wanted to be a solicitor, that is someone that deals with law and goes to court and represents people. And then when I got to college when I finished high school, it was then that I decided I wanted to be a teacher.

When was the last time you went swimming? I managed to go on holiday at Easter and that was probably the last time I went swimming.

What's it like being a head teacher? I enjoy seeing all your lovely learning as well as all the things that you do outside of school. I love when you come to collect the next colour slip for your reading rainbow and when you come and share the book that you've been reading, and tell me about what you've been enjoying at school.

How do you like to spend your free time? My youngest son plays lots and lots and lots of football. So I spend lots of time watching him playing and sometimes we go down to Southampton to watch Southampton Football Club play. I also like listening to music... not long ago, a few weeks ago, I went to watch The K's in concert and it was brilliant!

How long have you been at this school? I started in 2014, so over 10 years ago. That's before you two were born! Before I became head teacher here I was over the road at the Junior School. I was the deputy head there for a little while.

AFJS's Pop-Up Pool Makes a Splash

ALAYIAH Y1, HATTIE Y1 & QUIN Y2



Year 3 and 4 students enjoyed two weeks of fun and learning in the school's very own on-site swimming pool!

“We had to hire it – it cost £4000 for two weeks,” said Mrs Webb. “That included teaching staff, lifeguards, safety equipment, and all the lessons.”

The pool took just one day to build – but 3 to 4 days to fill! Unfortunately, it was built on a slope and had to be turned around after being drained and refilled (the water was reused).

The pool fits up to 12 children, but most lessons were in small groups of 8–10. “Nobody complained about the temperature!” Mrs Webb smiled.

And the best news?

It's coming back next year!

Mrs. Webb with Chase, the school dog





Giggles from the playground

CALEB YR & GEORGIA Y2

What is a parrot’s favourite game? Hide and beak!

What is an orange’s favourite game? Duck, duck, juice!

What snack makes you jump? Pop-corn!

What do police officers have in their sandwiches? Traffic Jam!

Where do fish get their money? The riverbank!

What is a bunnies favourite dance? Hip Hop!

What is a cow’s favourite thing to do?Go to the moovies!

If you like cheese, look in the mirror and say ‘Halloumi’

Why did the jelly wobble? Because it saw the milk shake!



LIFE AT AFJS

Year 6 Leaders Reflect on Their School Journey

Above Picture: AFJS Year 6 leaders

WILLOW YR, NIRU Y2

From their first day to their final term, the Year 6 leaders had a lot to say about their time at AFJS.

“It was a smooth transition,” said one. “The teachers helped us so much – from getting to know each other to finding our way around the school. The first few lessons were really fun.– and Chase, the school dog, makes everything better!”

Top picks:

- **Favourite subject?** PE and Maths.
- **Favourite food?** School dinners (though they'd like more vegan options!).
- **Least favourite thing?** Year 6 going to lunch last. They’ve loved trips to Condoover, the National Space Centre, and more.

“We made so many memories... and the food at Condoover was incredible – although the ground was soggy!



CHEF DOMINIQUE DISHES IT OUT

Kitchen Secrets from Our School Cook

ICY Y1, ROSIE Y1



At Abbots Farm Infant School, lunchtime isn’t just a break — it’s a highlight of the day. And that’s all thanks to **Dominique**, the school’s superstar cook who brings warmth, flavour, and a whole lot of love into the kitchen every single day. Dominique, who joined from South Africa in 2024, makes nearly everything fresh daily – including bread, biscuits, and roasts.

- **Most popular food?** Pizza – made fresh from scratch.

“It’s important that the food is freshly made and healthy. No frozen veg here!”

How do you cook the pizza? I come in in the mornings and I make my dough and then I let it sit and let it grow and get bigger and then I make it into little pizza shapes.

Do you like your job? Yes, I love my job... I get to work with all you guys.

Is it easy? Sometimes yes. Sometimes it's quite difficult.

What is your favourite food? Spaghetti Bolognese.

What is the most difficult food to cook? Cheesy bean wrap because it gets everywhere!

Where did you learn to make food? When I was in university, I actually studied to be a dietitian but they also taught me how to cook.

What time do you come in to prepare the food? I normally come in at 8:00 but when I make pizza I come in a 7:45.

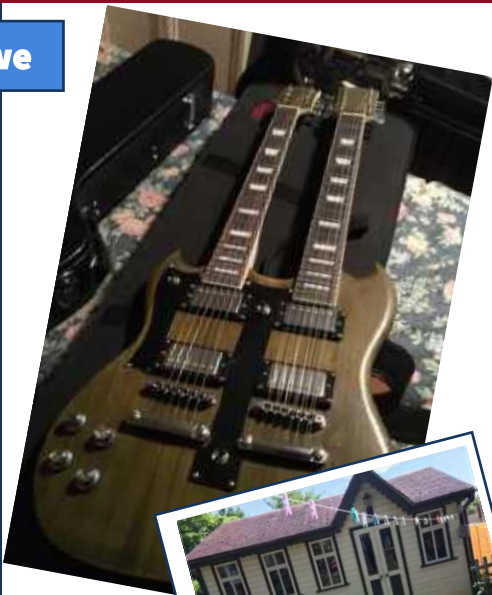
Where were you born? I was born in South Africa. If you look at Africa its all the way at the bottom - that's where I come from.

Do you buy much of the food? Some things we buy but most we make. We buy puff pastry but the pizza, the sausage rolls, the vegetarian patties are all made from scratch. Puddings - biscuits and cakes are made from scratch, the bread is made from scratch. It’s important that the food is freshly made. All the vegetables are fresh – no pre-prepared vegetables, no frozen vegetables – all fresh vegetables. Today we are having roast – I roast the meat the day before and slice it on the day. *It’s made fresh and it’s made here!*

Thank you, Dominique, for keeping our tummies full and our school full of fresh, healthy food and happiness!



Mr Ford’s Creations Inspire Joy and Awe



MEET MR. FORD

The man of many talents who keeps AFIS running smoothly

OLLIE Y2, AVA Y2

If you've ever arrived early at Abbots Farm Infant School, you've probably seen a cheerful man already hard at work — that's **Mr. Christopher Winston Ford**, our brilliant school caretaker (and yes, he really is named after Winston Churchill!).

- **Day starts:** 6:00 a.m.
- **Day ends:** Around 7:00 p.m. — sometimes later on Brownie nights!
- **Favourite food?** Steak, mushrooms and chips
- **Hero?** “My father — he taught me everything I know.”
- **Fun fact:** He used to build massive diesel engines!

Mr. Ford spends his spare time walking his dog Rinder, and building some incredible furniture. He even made his own **cinema room!** Have a read ...

How long have you been doing this job? 8 years ...gosh it's a long time!

What do you like about your job? All the teachers and the children. It's nice to work here.

What time do you finish every day? Most days I finish around 7 o'clock in the evening, and on Wednesday I finish at half past 8 because we've got Brownies. I start at 6:00 in the morning. (Ollie: That's the time I wake up!) I wake up at 5 o'clock.

Where do you like to go on holiday? Cornwall is very nice. I used to go surfing when I was younger but I don't know if I could stand on a surf board now!

Who is your hero/ role model? Who is my role model? Gosh ... that's a difficult one. I think my role model was my father because he taught me everything I know.

What is your favourite food? Steak, mushrooms and chips!

If you were on a desert Island with one other person who would you like it to be with? Oh gosh! ...Well, I should say my wife but I would like to take my sister too.

Where would you like to work if it wasn't here? Here! I used to be in engineering and build great big diesel engines. It was in Daventry — I used to build big gas diesel engines.

How do you spend your free time? Walking the dog — Rinder, after Judge Rinder on the tele! He's a 9-year-old rottweiler. I make furniture, tables and chairs and things like that. During Covid times I kept myself busy making a model railway and a shed to go in my back garden. I've made a guitar. I've also made myself a cinema room. Now I've got lots and lots of films I just don't have time to watch them!

What's your favourite film? I like Disney films and I like action films.

What's your favourite sport? My favourite sport... now you're asking! Cricket, I like cricket.

What's your favourite class in the school? Crickets!

Thank you, Mr. Ford — for being our fixer, builder, furniture-maker, and all-round superhero.

Rugby Tops the list: Best Town to live in for Community, Culture, and Quality of life!

Georgia Y1

1. It has lots of parks with excellent swings.
2. It has a brilliant school called Abbots Farm Infant School!

3. There's lots of fun things to do like going to the cinema and going swimming.
4. Its easy to get places on the train like London and Birmingham.
5. The game of Rugby was invented here!
6. Rugby School which is in the town center is a very famous old school.
7. There are lots of nice places to walk, like Draycote Water!

AFIS is the best — it rules the rest!

Why Abbots Farm Rules!

Caleb YR

Caleb says...

- Tasty lunches
- Great cars and toys to play with
- Fun climbing Frame
- Spending time with best friends



Sowing Seeds of Pride: Our School Joins Rugby in Bloom

ANNABELLE YR & NIHIRA Y1

AFIS is celebrating in full colour this week as Ms. Trasler has led the school to win the prestigious **Platinum Award** in the *Rugby in Bloom* competition — the highest honour available.

A passionate gardener, Ms. Trasler and the team have spent months transforming the Reception outdoor space into a vibrant, thoughtful tribute to this year’s theme: **VE Day**. Her efforts have captured the hearts of pupils...

What is your favourite flower? My favourite flower is a poppy. I love them because they are red and I have lots of them in my garden.

Why do you like gardening? I like gardening because I can relax after school and concentrate on watering and planting.

What is your garden like at home? I only have a small garden but it

is south facing and it gets the sun all day so I have to plant flowers in there that don’t mind having the sun all day. I have a nice little patio in my garden with some fairy lights and a BBQ that I am going to use tonight!

How do you get all the tools? We have been very lucky because lots of our children’s grownups have given us tools to use – so they have given us spades, gardening gloves and the last time we got a reward from Rugby in Bloom we got a voucher as well so we were able to buy some soil and some seeds that we used this year.

Why did you want to start Rugby in Bloom in school? We did it three years ago and so many children and parents joined in and we really had a nice time so I decided to do it again this year, partly for fun because we all enjoy planting and watering – not so much the weeding but my Reception children are really good at weeding! But it is also really good for us as we learn about plants and how they grow and we can see them grow from a seed into a plant.

As for what’s next? Ms. Trasler hinted at a celebration on her patio with and her trusty BBQ. And with the red poppies blooming and the Platinum reward, there’s no doubt: AFIS is in full bloom — thanks to Ms. Trasler.



AVA, NIRU, QUINN, OLLIE
(ALL Y2)

Year 2 pupils at Abbots Farm Infant School have been busy turning trash into treasure! Using recycled materials like crisp packets, carrier bags, tissue paper, and plastic tins, they created stunning pieces of artwork with an important message: **Protect the planet!**

Two different classes worked on two unique pieces:

- **Dragonflies Class** proudly made a recycled collage with the letters ‘AFIS’ – a colourful celebration of our school.

Year 2 Creates Eco-Friendly Masterpieces!

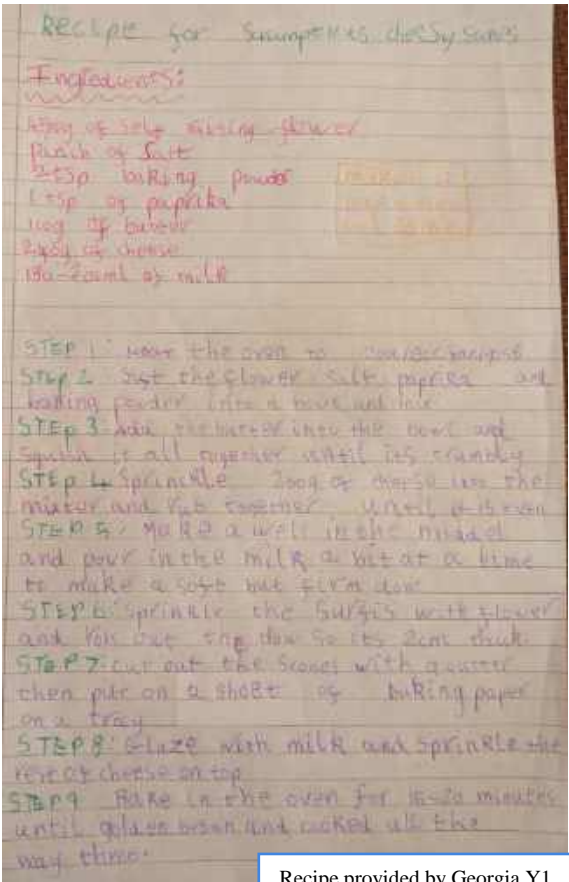
- **Crickets Class** created a powerful message in their art: ‘**Save The Environment**’ – reminding everyone that small changes can make a big difference.

“We made the artwork to create awareness about protecting the environment and making the world a better place,” said a Year 2 student.

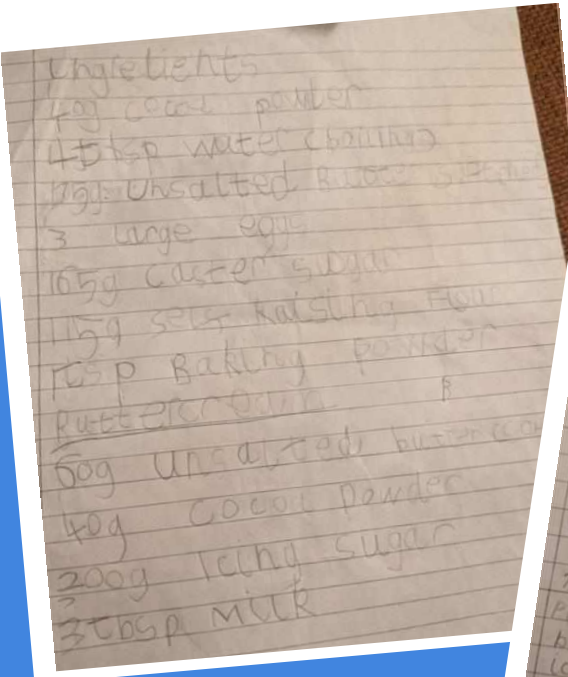
To tie it all together, Year 2 also worked together to make a **collage filled with the insects of our school** – showing off their creativity while also highlighting the beauty of nature.

The aim? To remind everyone that **recycling is important**, and that **littering hurts the environment**. Well done Year 2 – you’re leading the way to a cleaner, greener future!

Bake It Till You Make It: Scones and Cupcakes Delight!



Recipe provided by Georgia Y1



Recipe provided by Beau YR

