



ABBOTS FARM INFANT SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 9th September 2026

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www.abbotsfarm-inf.org

WELCOME

A warm welcome back to all our families, and a very special welcome to our new Reception and Preschool children and their parents. We are delighted that you have chosen Abbots Farm Infant School to begin your child's learning journey with us.

The school has been full of smiles, excitement and chatter as the children have returned eager to share their holiday adventures and reconnect with their friends. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they have settled back into school life.

Each newsletter will include a calendar of key dates and events for the term. Whilst we aim to give as much notice as possible, please be aware that some dates may be subject to change. We therefore encourage families to check the newsletter and ClassDojo regularly for any updates.

We are looking forward to another exciting year of learning, growth and success together.

ALLERGY AWARENESS AND BENEDICT'S LAW

This year, schools are implementing the requirements of Benedict's Law, which aims to improve the safety of children with allergies. As part of this, all staff at Abbots Farm Infant School have received allergy awareness training, enabling them to recognise the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction and respond appropriately.

We also now have emergency adrenaline auto-injector pens available on site, which can be used in an emergency if a child is experiencing a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). This additional measure helps to ensure that we are as prepared as possible to keep all children safe and provide rapid support should it ever be needed.

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils remains our highest priority, and we will continue to work closely with families to ensure children's medical needs are effectively supported.

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 24 th September
Bumble Bees	Thursday 1 st October
Dragonflies	Thursday 8 th October
Fireflies	Thursday 15 th October

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
Wednesday	Starting with Art	With Natalie in Bumble Bees from 3:15 – 4:15pm
Thursday	Tang Soo Doo	With Mr Dove in the hall from 3:15 – 4:00pm
Friday	Football	With Metcalf in the hall from 3:15 – 4:15pm

CHANGES FOR 26-27

Following the fantastic success of our handwriting initiative last year, and the tremendous support from parents and carers at home, we are now placing an increased focus on spelling across the school.

To support this, home learning will now consist of two key areas:

- A weekly handwriting practice sheet to help children develop fluent, correctly formed handwriting.
- A set of spellings linked directly to the phonics sounds and patterns being taught in school.

Regular practice at home will help children become more confident writers and spellers, while also reinforcing the learning taking place in the classroom.

Thank you for your continued support. Working together, we can help ensure that every child develops the essential reading, spelling and writing skills they need to succeed. 📖 🖋️ ☀️

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.

READING

All children in Key Stage 1 will have brought home a reading record diary for you to record their reading at home. Our Reception children will receive their diaries once they have begun their phonics programme.

Children will bring home two books:

- A phonics book matched to the sounds and words they have been learning in school. This book is for your child to read to you.
- A sharing book chosen from their classroom reading box. This book is for you to enjoy reading together, helping to develop a love of stories and reading for pleasure.
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To support phonics-based reading at home, children also have access to Bug Club, our online reading resource: [Bug Club Login](#)

Reading Rainbow

To encourage reading for pleasure, we run our Reading Rainbow Challenge. Every child has a red Reading Rainbow card in the back of their reading diary. Parents and carers can initial the card each day that their child has read with, or shared a book with, an adult.

This can be any book other than their phonics book, such as:

- A school reading book
- A library book
- A favourite book from home

Once a card is completed, children bring it to Mrs Lovejoy to receive a certificate and the next colour of the rainbow. They will also move their photograph along their year group's Reading Rainbow display. Children who reach the pot of gold by the end of the year will receive a special gift in recognition of their commitment to reading.

Volunteers Needed

We are hoping to get our school library fully up and running again this year. If you have a few hours to spare each week and would be interested in volunteering to help, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office for more information.

Together, we can help develop confident readers and foster a lifelong love of books. 📖 🖋️ ☀️

PAYMENTS

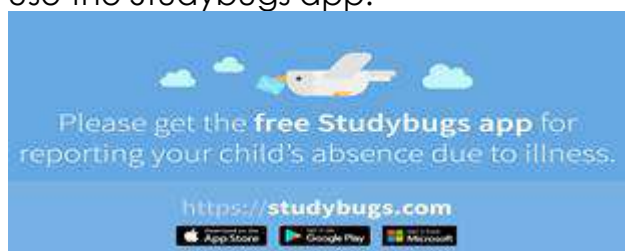
We use a payment system called School Comms. This provides you with an app where you can make payments for Bug Club, Preschool and any trips/visits or events we have in school. For our new children login details have been sent by email.



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
- 3) Use the Studybugs app:



🌴 TROPICAL FAMILY DISCO 🌴

Our popular Tropical Family Disco is back! Join us on Friday 25th September 2026 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the school hall for an evening of music, dancing and family fun. Doors will open at 5:45pm and there will be refreshments, a licensed bar, a tuck shop and disco accessories available throughout the evening.

Tickets are limited and always sell quickly, so please make sure you book early via SchoolComms.

We look forward to seeing lots of families dressed in their tropical best for what promises to be a fantastic community event!



DIARY

(Dates are subject to change)

September:

- 15th - Governor Meeting
- 18th - Reception height and weight check
- 24th - Crickets Assembly
- 25th - Family Disco

October:

- 1st - Bumble Bees Assembly
- 8th - Dragonflies Assembly
- 13th - Yr 2 Cricket Festival
- 15th - Fireflies Assembly
- 16th - School Photos
- 20th - Harvest Assembly
- Week beginning 19th - Parents Evenings
- 23rd - **School Closed - Teacher Training**

26th - 30th October Half term

November:

- 11th - Remembrance Silence
- 20th - Flu immunisations
 - Children in Need
- 23rd - **School Closed - Teacher Training**
- 24th - Governor Meeting

December:

- 2nd - Parents online safety and AI workshop
- 8th - Yr 1 Christmas performance (pm)
- 10th - Reception Christmas performance (pm)
- 11th - Year 2 Christmas performance (pm)
- 16th - Christmas dinner
- 17th - Theatre Visit

21st December - 4th January Christmas Holidays. School Reopens on 5th January.

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/stir-food-ss2026-menu-1/>



YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

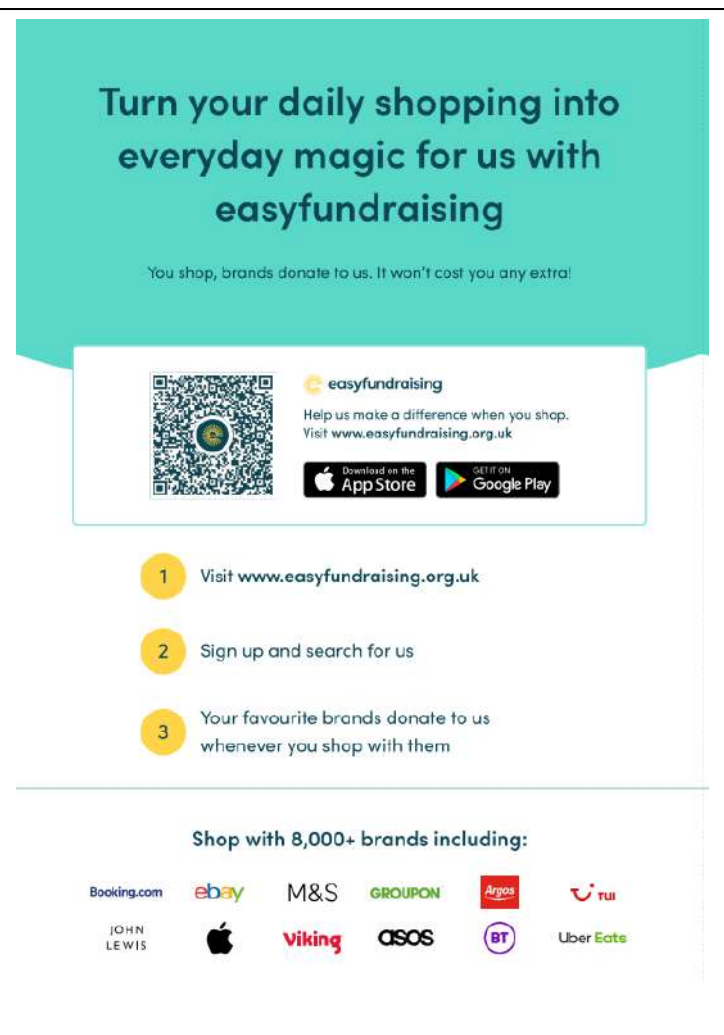
WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

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**

GambleAware 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 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.

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.