

# Abbeywood First School Newsletter



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Telephone: 01527 962794

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful half-term break. It's lovely to see the children returning with so much enthusiasm, and we're excited for the busy term ahead. With autumn in full swing, we have a wonderful line-up of events, learning activities, and projects to look forward to! It's hard to believe, but we're already preparing for our festive events! The children will be starting to learn songs, lines, and dances for our Christmas performances, and we'll be sharing dates and details soon. We're also really excited that work has started on our new outdoor space for Reception! This development will create a wonderful learning area, specially designed to support hands-on activities and outdoor exploration. The children are already eagerly watching the progress, and we can't wait to see the amazing space that will be available to them. As the cold weather settles in, please ensure children are dressed in warm layers and have coats, hats, and gloves that are clearly labelled. Finally, regular attendance and punctuality is key to every child's success, so let's keep our attendance strong as we move through this term.

*Mrs Gilmour*

## Macmillan Coffee Morning:

At the end of last half term, we hosted a coffee morning fundraiser in aid of Macmillan cancer support. It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers attend; both children and adults alike had a wonderful time enjoying the sweet treats on offer. Most importantly, however, we were able to raise a staggering £485 for charity! This donation will help Macmillan provide expert cancer advice on their Macmillan Support Line and in person support at their Macmillan cancer centres in hospitals, hospices, libraries and other community locations. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and helped us to support this vital cause.



## Times Tables:

At Abbeywood, we believe a strong grasp of times tables is essential for all children as it lays the foundation for all areas of mathematics. Fluent times tables knowledge helps pupils to tackle more complex mathematical concepts with confidence. Children have been using a counting stick in lessons to help make connections between the numbers, including doubling and halving, so they can recite their times tables with accuracy. Why don't you challenge your child to show you what they've been practicing?

To further support your child in mastering their times tables, we highly recommend using Times Tables Rockstars (TT Rockstars) at home. This is a fun and interactive online tool that makes learning times tables enjoyable. Please contact your child's class teacher if you don't have the correct login details and they will be happy to provide them. Watch the following video to help understand the script used in school:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXdHGBfoqfw>



Wanted: donations of spare uniform including underwear and socks – particularly for Reception please.

## Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Odd socks day (for anti-bullying week)
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November (3:30 – 6pm) and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November (3:30 – 5pm) - Parents' Evening
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Year 3 assembly
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - School closed for teacher training day
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Year 4 trip
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Break up for Christmas

## Communication:



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## Do you have a child with additional needs?

Or, do you need signposting and support for the whole family



Join us at WPCC or find out more about how we can support your family at [www.worcestershireparentcarers.org.uk](http://www.worcestershireparentcarers.org.uk)

Or scan the QR Code



## Phonics and Reading:

At Abbeywood, we are passionate about our pupils being able to read as it is a very important life skill. But, most importantly, it's fun! We teach all our pupils to read using the Read Write Inc (RWI) Phonics programme. This systematic synthetic phonics programme is engaging and fast paced, meaning every lesson is vital; skipping just one session can mean missing the introduction of a new sound. Phonics happens first thing in the morning so being on time each day is vital.

Starting in Reception, children learn to 'read' the sounds in words and how they are written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. Children also practise reading 'tricky words' – words that don't follow standard phonetic rules - before applying this with carefully matched reading books.

By the end of Year 2, your child will be able to read books that encourage them to keep pushing themselves with ever-challenging vocabulary and themes. In KS2, children further develop the ability to comprehend what they read and consider the impact of language choices made by authors.

To help foster a love of reading in all our pupils, all children have access to two reading books: a levelled book matched to their reading ability and a self-selected reading for pleasure book chosen from in-class reading corners. Additionally, the last 20 minutes of everyday is dedicated to a high-quality and engaging story read by teachers to model the joys of enjoying a good book. Remember to encourage your child to read regularly at home and reach out to their class teacher if you have any further questions.

## Year 2 Assembly:

Year 2 kick started our school assemblies with a bang this October. They showcased lots of their learning and performed with confidence to a packed-out audience. Well done Year 2! Additionally, they enjoyed a local walk to identify human and physical features in their local area. They looked for animal habitats which linked to their science topic whilst demonstrating the Abbeywood Expectations of being Ready & Safe.

