

# Abbeywood First School Newsletter



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Telephone: 01527 962794

Dear parents and carers, as we move into the second half of the autumn term, it's a pleasure to share just how much our children have already achieved. This newsletter is full of examples of the fantastic progress being made across the school—from Nursery children confidently exploring their senses and celebrating what makes them unique, to Year 4 pupils deepening their understanding of rivers, habitats, and persuasive writing. Our focus on Maths continues to be a priority, with children across all year groups developing key skills. It's been wonderful to see Reception children exploring numbers through play, Year 2 mastering number bonds, and Years 3 and 4 working hard on column methods and times tables. Looking ahead, children will be diving into exciting new topics - from Year 1's upcoming trip to the Black Country Museum to explore history, to Year 3's investigations into rocks and soil, and Year 4's continued exploration of Anglo-Saxon life. Across the school, pupils are building confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning that will carry them through the year.

*Mrs Gilmour*

## Maths at Abbeywood:

The start of the year is a busy time to master key Maths skills that will help pupils throughout their school journey. Last half term, we were focusing on our understanding of place value across all year groups and have started to work on addition and subtraction skills too. It has been wonderful to see so much hands on learning happening across the school: Reception and Nursery using a variety of materials in the classroom to represent different numbers to 5; Year 1 getting outside to practice counting on and back on number lines; Year 2 using counters to master number bonds to 10 and 20; and Year 3 and 4 using tens and ones to work hard on grasping column addition and subtraction.

The children have also been working hard on mastering their KIRF (key instant recall facts) skills for this term. These key skills form the basis of secure number understanding and are explicitly taught each week in class. The new facts for this half term have been sent home so please stick them up in a prominent place so you can discuss the strategies being taught to help your child master them at home.

<p><b>Key Instant Recall Facts</b> Reception – Autumn 2</p> <p>I can count 10 objects accurately.</p> <p>By the end of this half term, children should know the following facts. The aim is for them to recall these facts instantly.</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>1 + 1 = 2</td><td>1 + 2 = 3</td><td>2 + 1 = 3</td></tr><tr><td>1 + 3 = 4</td><td>1 + 4 = 5</td><td>2 + 2 = 4</td></tr><tr><td>2 + 3 = 5</td><td>3 + 1 = 4</td><td>3 + 2 = 5</td></tr><tr><td>4 + 1 = 5</td><td>4 + 2 = 6</td><td>5 + 1 = 6</td></tr><tr><td>5 + 1 = 6</td><td>5 + 2 = 7</td><td>6 + 1 = 7</td></tr><tr><td>6 + 1 = 7</td><td>6 + 2 = 8</td><td>7 + 1 = 8</td></tr><tr><td>7 + 1 = 8</td><td>7 + 2 = 9</td><td>8 + 1 = 9</td></tr><tr><td>8 + 1 = 9</td><td>8 + 2 = 10</td><td>9 + 1 = 10</td></tr><tr><td>9 + 1 = 10</td><td>9 + 2 = 11</td><td>10 + 1 = 11</td></tr></table> <p><b>Key Vocabulary:</b> First on here's 3, then we add 2, now we have 5.</p> <p><b>First on here's 5, then we take away 1, now we have 4.</b></p> <p><b>What is 3 add 2?</b> What is 5 take 2?</p> <p><b>What is 1 less than 4?</b> What is 1 less than 7?</p> <p><b>Top Tip:</b> The secret to success is practising little and often. Use time wisely. Can you practise these KIRF's while walking to school or during a car journey? You do not need to practise them all at once, perhaps you could have a fact of the day. If you would like more ideas, please speak to your child's teacher.</p> <p><b>Use practical resources:</b> Your child has one potato on their plate and you give them three more. Can they predict how many they will have now?</p> <p><b>Make a game:</b> Use one Numicon at school. You can find pictures of the Numicon shapes here: <a href="http://bit.ly/numiconpictures">bit.ly/numiconpictures</a> – your child could make a poster showing the different ways of making 5.</p> <p><b>Play Games:</b> – You can play number bond games online at <a href="http://www.mathsplay.com">www.mathsplay.com</a> and see how many questions you can answer in just one minute.</p>	1 + 1 = 2	1 + 2 = 3	2 + 1 = 3	1 + 3 = 4	1 + 4 = 5	2 + 2 = 4	2 + 3 = 5	3 + 1 = 4	3 + 2 = 5	4 + 1 = 5	4 + 2 = 6	5 + 1 = 6	5 + 1 = 6	5 + 2 = 7	6 + 1 = 7	6 + 1 = 7	6 + 2 = 8	7 + 1 = 8	7 + 1 = 8	7 + 2 = 9	8 + 1 = 9	8 + 1 = 9	8 + 2 = 10	9 + 1 = 10	9 + 1 = 10	9 + 2 = 11	10 + 1 = 11	<p><b>Key Instant Recall Facts</b> Year 1 – Autumn 2</p> <p>I know number bonds for each number to 6.</p> <p>By the end of this half term, children should know the following facts. 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The child replies 'Ping', and then leaves the next number given.</p> <p><b>Play Online:</b> – Go to <a href="http://www.abbeywood.com">www.abbeywood.com</a> or <a href="http://www.concordmaths.com">www.concordmaths.com</a></p>	1 + 1 = 2	1 + 2 = 3	2 + 1 = 3	1 + 3 = 4	1 + 4 = 5	2 + 2 = 4	2 + 3 = 5	3 + 1 = 4	3 + 2 = 5	4 + 1 = 5	4 + 2 = 6	5 + 1 = 6	5 + 1 = 6	5 + 2 = 7	6 + 1 = 7	6 + 1 = 7	6 + 2 = 8	7 + 1 = 8	7 + 1 = 8	7 + 2 = 9	8 + 1 = 9	8 + 1 = 9	8 + 2 = 10	9 + 1 = 10	9 + 1 = 10	9 + 2 = 11	10 + 1 = 11	<p><b>Key Instant Recall Facts</b> Year 2 – Autumn 2</p> <p>I know doubles and halves of numbers to 20.</p> <p>By the end of this half term, children should know the following facts. 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If you would like more ideas, please speak to your child's teacher.</p> <p><b>Use what you already know:</b> Encourage your child to find the connection between the 2 times table and double facts.</p> <p><b>Play Games:</b> – You can play Times Tables Clio or the multiplication song and 'Double, Double' You can also use Education City (http://www.educationcity.co.uk) and <a href="http://www.concordmaths.com">www.concordmaths.com</a></p> <p><b>Play Online:</b> – Go to <a href="http://www.abbeywood.com">www.abbeywood.com</a> or <a href="http://www.concordmaths.com">www.concordmaths.com</a></p>	3 x 1 = 3	3 x 2 = 6	3 x 3 = 9	3 x 4 = 12	3 x 5 = 15	3 x 6 = 18	3 x 7 = 21	3 x 8 = 24	3 x 9 = 27	3 x 10 = 30	3 x 11 = 33	3 x 12 = 36	6 ÷ 3 = 2	9 ÷ 3 = 3	12 ÷ 3 = 4	15 ÷ 3 = 5	18 ÷ 3 = 6	21 ÷ 3 = 7	24 ÷ 3 = 8	27 ÷ 3 = 9	30 ÷ 3 = 10	33 ÷ 3 = 11	36 ÷ 3 = 12	36 ÷ 3 = 12	<p><b>Key Instant Recall Facts</b> Year 4 – Autumn 2</p> <p>I know the multiplication and division facts for the 6x table.</p> <p>By the end of this half term, children should know the following facts. 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If you would like more ideas, please speak to your child's teacher.</p> <p><b>Use what you already know:</b> Multiplying a number by 6 is the same as multiplying by 3 then doubling the answer: 3 x 3 = 9 and double 9 is 18 so 6 x 3 = 18.</p> <p><b>Use your skill from Year 3:</b> If your child knows one fact (eg. 3 x 4 = 12), can they tell you the other three facts in the same fact family?</p> <p><b>Use what you already know:</b> When reading fact families, children sometimes get confused by the order of the numbers in the division number sentences. It is helpful to say that the biggest number goes first, but it is more helpful to say that the answer to the multiplication goes first, as this will help your child more in later years when they study fractions, decimals and algebra. Eg. 6 x 12 = 72. The answer to the multiplication is 72, so 72 ÷ 6 = 12 and 72 ÷ 12 = 6.</p> <p><b>Play Online:</b> – Go to <a href="http://www.abbeywood.com">www.abbeywood.com</a> or <a href="http://www.concordmaths.com">www.concordmaths.com</a></p>	6 x 1 = 6	6 x 2 = 12	6 x 3 = 18	6 x 4 = 24	6 x 5 = 30	6 x 6 = 36	6 x 7 = 42	6 x 8 = 48	6 x 9 = 54	6 x 10 = 60	6 x 11 = 66	6 x 12 = 72	12 ÷ 6 = 2	18 ÷ 6 = 3	24 ÷ 6 = 4	30 ÷ 6 = 5	36 ÷ 6 = 6	42 ÷ 6 = 7	48 ÷ 6 = 8	54 ÷ 6 = 9	60 ÷ 6 = 10	66 ÷ 6 = 11	72 ÷ 6 = 12	72 ÷ 6 = 12
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We have also been incredibly proud of Year 3 and 4 working diligently on their times tables since returning to school. Learning times tables is a key focus in Years 3 and 4 because it underpins so many areas of Maths. When children know their times tables fluently, they can approach problems with confidence and speed. Amongst other things, they support learning in: multiplication and division; fractions and decimals; area and perimeter; and problem solving and reasoning. We practice times tables regularly in school through a range of taught methods, games, and digital tools. However, support at home makes a huge difference - just a few minutes of practice each day can help children build fluency and confidence, setting them up for success in all areas of maths. By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all their times tables up to 12 x 12, along with the associated division facts. The KS2 team have been encouraging fierce weekly competitions on TTRockstars to keep the children engaged and motivated so keep your eye on our school Facebook page to keep up with the winning class each time...

## All About Me in the Nursery:

The children have settled beautifully into our nursery routines, and we are so proud of how confident and happy they are becoming in their new environment. Nursery's learning has focused on the theme "All About Me." The children have: shared photographs of themselves and their families, helping us celebrate what makes each child unique; learned about their bodies and the amazing things they can do; and explored their senses through a range of exciting activities. These included playing music and experimenting with sounds, discovering different scents as we explored our sense of smell, trying a variety of new flavours and investigating textures through sensory play. We have also explored Diwali where the children printed beautiful Rangoli patterns. These experiences have sparked lots of curiosity and conversation, and it's been wonderful to see the children so engaged.



## Curriculum Highlights in Year 2:

October has been a busy month for Year 2. It started with National Poetry Day, where we learnt poems to perform to the school. It was lovely to see all of the children working hard to remember their lines and actions, and to see how proud they were after their performances. In English, we have also stuck with the poetry theme, writing and creating our own rhyming poems. In Geography, we have been finishing our unit on human and physical geography, which included our local walk visit. During this, children were able to identify different human and physical features around the school. In Science, we deepened our understanding of living things and their habitats, including learning about MRS GREN. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate this fantastic learning (and our work on Samba in music) in our class assembly too. The children did an amazing job at speaking confidently in front of an audience and sharing what they have been learning in school.



## Halloween disco:

Pupils had a fantastic time at the spooky disco, arriving in a wonderful variety of Halloween costumes. The hall was filled with music, dancing, and laughter as everyone showed off their spooky outfits and enjoyed the spook-tacular atmosphere. Thank you to all the parents who supported with this.



## Learning in Year 1:

It has been wonderful to get to know all of our children in Year 1 during October. We have been working hard on our maths using manipulatives to help us calculate accurately, using chalk to build number lines and counting using rekenreks (like abacus). In Science, we have been exploring the school site, investigating wild and garden plants and labelling the different parts of trees. It was also our first taste of Geography and we have been singing the continents song non-stop! Most excitingly, before the half term break we were wizards and witches, making marvellous potions to write instructions. All of the pupils were so inspired to write all sorts of gross ingredients which made their writing come alive. But we have more excitement to come as we have started learning the subject of History and we are going on a trip to the Black Country Museum in December. It will be so interesting to see the old-fashioned shops in real life and learn all about Britain in the past. We'll be sure to tell you all about it in the next newsletter.



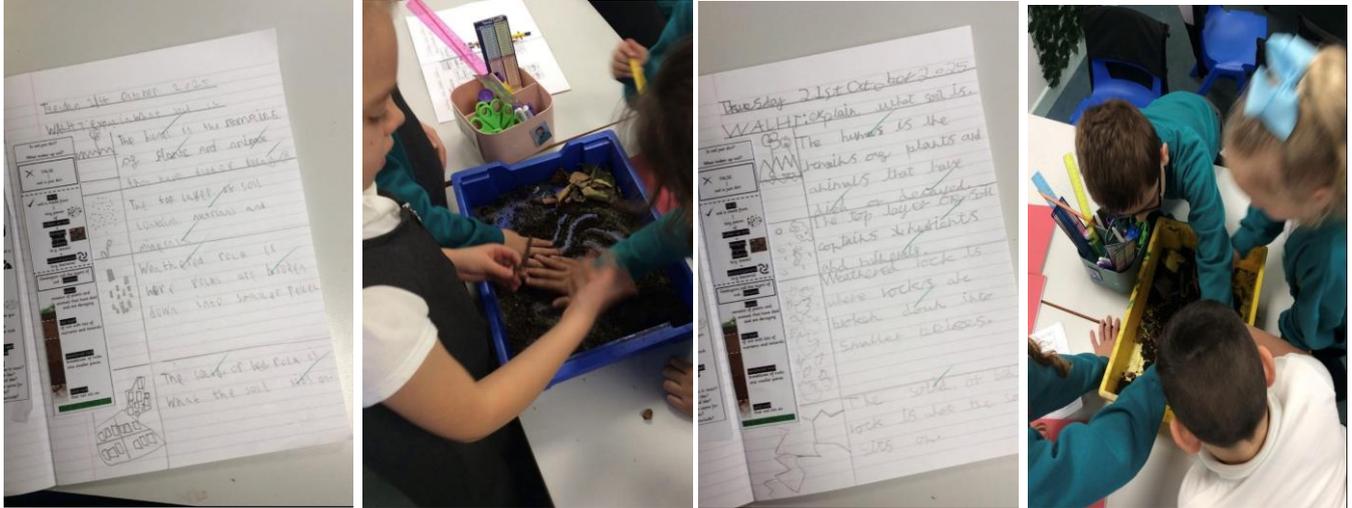
## Learning in Reception:

Reception had a wonderful first half term and have made plenty of friends. It has been a busy half term, learning about patterns, the importance of numbers, exploring Forest School and learning many traditional tales. A firm favourite was 'The Three Little Pigs'. During role play sessions, the children had the confidence to act out these characters. We have some extremely scary big bad wolves and some very cheeky pigs! Our tale last week, of 'The Little Red Hen' led us to make bread which of course we had to taste! We have also been learning how to manage our emotions using the Zones of Regulation and having the confidence to effectively talk about how we're feeling. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like any more information on how we can support you to use the same strategies at home.



## Learning in Year 3:

In Year 3, pupils learn about different types of rocks and how they are formed. They explore rocks such as igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic, discovering their features through observation and simple tests. Pupils also learn how rocks break down over time to form soil. By studying rocks and soil, pupils begin to understand how the Earth's surface changes and how these natural materials are important for life. Also, Year 3 pupils are learning how to play basketball. They are developing their skills in dribbling, passing, and shooting, as well as learning how to work together as a team. Pupils are practicing how to move with control, follow the rules of the game, and show good sportsmanship during matches.



## Learning in Year 4:

It's been a fantastic month of learning and discovery in Year 4, and we're so proud of everything the children have achieved! In Geography, the children have been exploring the fascinating topic of Rivers—learning about how they form, their journey from source to mouth, and the important role they play in shaping our landscapes. Over in Science, we've been investigating habitats and environments, diving into the ways living things adapt and thrive in different conditions. The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm in their observations and discussions. In PE, the children have been perfecting their balancing skills in gymnastics, focusing on both static and dynamic balances. They've practiced various balances, including individual shapes and partner supports, concentrating on core stability and control. Finally in English, Year 4 have been busy crafting some truly persuasive adverts—using powerful language, catchy slogans, and creative ideas to convince their readers. The quality of writing has been outstanding, and we've been so impressed by their imagination and effort. In addition to all this learning, Year 4 also visited Tamworth Castle this week. It was a fantastic opportunity to step back into the Anglo-Saxon era and learn all about the Magnificent Mercians where we discovered how important Tamworth was and the different ways that Anglo-Saxon rulers governed the kingdom. A highlight was the engaging Anglo-Saxon archaeology workshop, where we became real archaeologists and excavated fascinating artifacts. It was a brilliant day that brought our history lessons about early England to life!

