

# Abbeywood First School Newsletter



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Telephone: 01527 962794

Dear parents and carers, it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and creativity in every classroom at Abbeywood this month - from our Nursery children exploring stories and art, right through to the Year 4 pupils tackling challenging investigations and creating thoughtful projects. Our children have truly shown what it means to be Ready, Respectful, and Safe learners. We are also thrilled with the amazing transformation of our KS2 cloakroom, creating a calmer, more organised space that instils a sense of belonging and helps children start their day ready to learn. A special mention goes to our new library monitors, who have taken great pride in keeping our library beautiful and promoting a love of reading across the school. The run-up to Christmas is always a magical time at Abbeywood, and our calendar is packed with exciting events that bring our community together. Please make sure you've checked the school calendar, so you don't miss out on any of these wonderful opportunities. Thank you for your continued support in making our school such a vibrant and caring place.

**Mrs Gilmour**

## Art at Abbeywood:

Our Art curriculum is organised into blocks with each block covering a particular set of artistic disciplines, including drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles, 3D and collage. In addition to the core knowledge required to be successful within each discipline, the curriculum outlines key aspects of artistic development with each module focusing on developing different aspects of these competencies. Central to the learning modules are activities designed to develop pupils' oracy and vocabulary skills to enable them to use artistic language meaningfully when talking about their work and the work of others.

From Nursery through to Reception, our children have been developing their skills of drawing and painting as part of their Art learning this term. The children have been developing artistic techniques such as cross-hatching and shading in Year 1, while progressing to explore tertiary colours and the art of creating them through careful mixing and blending in Year 4.

Our youngest learners at Abbeywood have been joyfully exploring lines, shapes, and a variety of mark-making techniques. Using these skills, they created beautiful self-portraits that truly celebrate their individuality. Our Year 1 children have been experimenting with different mark-making techniques, such as cross-hatching and shading, and proudly used these skills to create their own beautiful versions of their favourite Hairy Maclary characters. In Year 2, children have discovered how music and movement can spark creativity and inspire their artwork. Listening to Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides, Op. 26 (Fingal's Cave)*, they explored the dynamics and tempo of the piece and responded through expressive mark-making. In Year 3, children have been exploring the origins of art, observing some of the earliest drawings created by humankind in ancient caves. They studied the intricate lines found in rock cross-sections and observed the beautiful shapes and patterns within fossils. Inspired by these natural designs, the children then created their own unique patterns, showing creativity and curiosity. Our Year 4 children have been exploring the art of colour mixing, creating vibrant tertiary colours by blending primary and secondary colours. They have applied these skills using watercolours to paint serene, atmospheric landscapes. In Here are a few examples – don't they look wonderful! (From left to right: Margot (Nursery), Maggie (Birch), Mikey (Elm), Jaxon (Pine), Maja (Cedar)).



## Learning in Nursery:

This month, our little artists have been expressing their creativity by making stunning firework artwork for our Home Corner, inspired by the famous artist Jackson Pollock. The children loved exploring splatter painting techniques to create vibrant, explosive designs! Our traditional tale has been Rapunzel, and the children have been amazing at joining in with repeated refrains. Using their understanding of the story and their wonderful imaginations, they've been busy building towers and retelling the tale in their own words.



## Curriculum Highlights in Year 2:

We've had another busy month! We started our new unit in Computing, which is all about how to take a great photo! We have looked at using landscape and portrait, and how to frame our subject effectively. The children have been able to take some excellent photos so far! In DT, we have been so impressed with the children's sewing skills. Together, they have been creating patchwork pieces using a straight stitch. We are so proud of how well they have done using a needle and thread, knowing this is a tricky skill to master. Year 2 loved having their karate workshops this month and enjoyed trying out different moves. We look forward to seeing who takes up this new sport as we go into next year. We have been working hard on our narrative writing this month too, and we are so proud of the children's use of adjectives, adverbs and conjunctions. We are looking forward to all things Christmas as we head into December, including our Christmas carols practice and Family Friday activity coming up soon.



## KS2 Times Tables:

It was great to be joined by Year 3 and 4 parents to discuss all things times tables this month. We talked through the importance of times tables and why we teach them at school, looking at how it links to lots of different areas of the curriculum. Important information was shared regarding the MTCs (Multiplication Tables Check), which happens at the end of Year 4. TT Rockstars was also a big discussion point, with this being our main platform for practising at home, helping children to improve their fluency in this key area.

## Library Monitors:

After receiving over 25 applications which detailed why they were perfect for the job, we are delighted to reveal the new Abbeywood library monitors. Congratulations to Finley, Holly, Sienna, Molly, Kasey-Mae and Rares. Their role is to ensure our beautiful library space is kept organised, make book recommendations, and promote a love of reading across the school. Since their appointment, they've already had a fantastic impact and the library looks better than ever. Keep up the hard work Year 4!



## Learning in Year 1:

In Computing this half term we have been looking at using digital media and have been inspired by different artists such as Piet Mondrian and Georges Seurat. We have learnt to use the tools in our paint app to manipulate shapes, lines and colours. We worked on the different tools we could use to create artistic pieces using the IPADs such as the fill tool, shape, eraser and spray tool. This was hard to do as we had to focus our attention on small parts of the screen and use our fine motor skills to create careful lines. As part of our learning enrichment offer, we try to get outside as much as we can to explore the natural phenomena and to use our lovely outside space to learn about all of the areas of the curriculum. In this newsletter we thought we would show our wonderful maths lesson- describing and naming 2D shapes. It was great to hear all of the mathematical vocabulary used via oracy: vertices, sides and shape names such as rectangle, square and hexagon. It is one of the things we all love about Abbeywood that we have such generous grounds and that we can use them in so many ways!



## Learning in Reception:

Reception have had a lot of fun learning both inside and outside. We started off the half term by planting trees to extend our Forest School area. We have also been busy in our mud kitchen creating potions. In our outdoor area we have used musical instruments and props to help us with our performance skills. We have also been busily practising for our EYFS Christmas performance. We have learnt new songs and we are overcoming our fear of talking to a large audience. In maths, we have been spotting numbers 1-5 around the classroom. We can now subitize to 5! We have also taste tested lots of Indian food as we read an Indian version of Rapunzel. We are now very excited with the build up to Christmas as Elvis the Elf is causing havoc in the classroom!



## Attendance Matters!

Don't Miss the Festive Fun! As we approach the Christmas holidays, we have an incredible line-up of activities to make this season truly special! From Christmas crafts and film nights to performances, hot chocolate treats, the magical Christmas Grotto, carols, Christmas dinner, Christmas jumper day, our cozy café for families, and a party afternoon, there's something for every pupil to enjoy. These events are all about celebrating together and creating lasting memories with friends. To make sure your child(ren) doesn't miss out, keep their attendance strong, right up to the end of term. Every day counts—and every day brings more festive fun! Let's finish the year on a high note, together.



## Learning in Year 3:

Year 3 have had a busy and exciting month of learning, and we are so proud of their hard work and enthusiasm! In English, the children have been writing non-chronological reports about rocks, using their research skills to present clear and informative facts. Their writing has been detailed and creative, and we've loved seeing their confidence grow. In Maths, we have been working through our 3 and 4 multiplication tables as part of our unit on multiplication and division. The children have shown great determination in learning new strategies and applying them to problem-solving. In Science, our focus has been on 'Animals Including Humans', with a special emphasis on skeletons and muscles. The children have enjoyed exploring how our bodies work and why these systems are so important for movement and protection. In PE, we have been developing skills in Athletics and Dance, combining fitness with creativity and teamwork. It's been wonderful to see the children's confidence and coordination improve.



## Learning in Year 4:

What an exciting month it has been for Year 4! The children have thrown themselves into their learning with enthusiasm and curiosity. In English, the focus has been on writing diary entries, allowing the children to step into the shoes of historical characters and express their thoughts and feelings creatively. They have also completed their writing assessments, showcasing the fantastic progress they've made. In Maths, Year 4 have been working hard to complete their unit on multiplication and division, developing strategies and building confidence in tackling more challenging problems. In PE, the children have started their new units in athletics and dance, combining fitness with creativity and teamwork. Finally, in Science we have begun exploring States of Matter, investigating solids, liquids, and gases through practical activities and discussions. We've had a month filled with enriching experiences for our children including a karate workshop where the children had the fantastic opportunity learn about discipline, focus, and some basic moves in a fun and engaging way. To honour Remembrance Day, our KS2 pupils collaborated on a powerful art project, creating a striking silhouette of a soldier that was beautifully filled with vibrant poppies. It was a thoughtful tribute that reflects both creativity and respect.



**A full write-up of our Christmas events will be included in the next addition of the newsletter so watch this space!**

## KS2 Cloakroom Transformation:

We're delighted to share the positive impact our recent cloakroom redecoration has had on your children's daily school experience. The newly decorated cloakroom has created a much calmer and more organised environment for the children as they arrive each morning. This improved space has helped reduce the hustle and bustle that can sometimes make mornings feel rushed, allowing your children to settle into their learning day more smoothly. We've been pleased to see how the clearer, more structured space has encouraged the children to take greater responsibility for their belongings and morning routines. This increased independence is already showing benefits in the classroom, with pupils arriving more settled and ready to learn. What's been particularly heartwarming is how much the children have appreciated this change. When they see that we've thoughtfully improved their space, it reinforces our message that we value them and care about their daily experience at school. This improvement isn't just for our current pupils - it will benefit children for years to come. Future classes will enjoy a welcoming space that reflects the pride we have in our school and helps establish positive daily routines from the very start. This project perfectly reflects our commitment to putting your children first by creating spaces that support their wellbeing, comfort and sense of belonging at school. Sometimes the smallest changes can make the biggest difference to your child's school day, and we're thrilled with how this transformation has enhanced everyone's daily experience. What do you think of the change in our 'before' and 'after' photos?



## Year 3 'Under the Sea' theme



## Year 4 'Jungle' theme



**Touchstones** Support for Everyone

### TOUCHSTONES LANTERN WALK

A lovely community event to remember those we love, who have died. Open to Everyone

MORTON STANLEY PARK - REDDITCH  
Saturday 13th December 2025

Walk starts at 5:45pm

*With lantern collection available, and cafe open from 5:15pm*

A special family occasion open to everyone, to remember those we love and who we miss

A gentle 30 minute walk with lanterns, and a short time of memory and reflection in the lit grotto - followed by a visit from Father Christmas and his sleigh at 6:30pm. Suitable for all ages and budgets.

Lanterns available to buy at £5.00 each, or just bring your own

Hot drinks and snacks available to buy from the wonderful Morton Stanley Cafe

Parking in main car park - off Windmill Drive

It is really helpful to know how many people are coming, and also if you need to purchase lanterns - so please: text or ring Rob on 07491 968 695, or email [rob@touchstones-support.org.uk](mailto:rob@touchstones-support.org.uk)

One the day, for any poor weather updates, keep checking our Touchstones Support on Facebook

Special thanks to the wonderful Redditch Round Table, Redditch Borough Council, the Morton Stanley Cafe and Banbury Litho

## Touchstones:

We are once again holding our lovely Community Lantern Walk of Remembrance – this year on Saturday 13th December in Morton Stanley Park. It is open to anyone (and not just our Touchstones families), who wants to walk to remember someone special. It's a short walk which is pushchair/granny friendly, and after a quiet time of remembering in a lantern lit copse, we return to the carpark for hot drinks and a visit from Santa on his sleigh/lorry (courtesy of the wonderful folk at the Redditch Round Table)! This community event isn't a fundraiser as there is no charge. People can bring their own lanterns or choose to buy one of ours at cost.

