

Abbeywood First School Newsletter



Friday 13th September 2024

Telephone: 01527 962794

Dear Parents and carers, welcome to a new academic year here at Abbeywood. I'd like to say an extra special welcome to the new children and families that have joined our community this year. In assemblies since our return, we have been talking about our new Abbeywood Expectations: Ready, Respectful and Safe. The children have done a wonderful job with embracing these core expectations, which form the basis of everything we do in school, and I am excited for all the positive learning opportunities that lie ahead. A close parent and school partnership is vital to the success of our community, and I look forward to working together to ensure that every child exceeds their potential.

Mrs Gilmour

Abbeywood News:

During the 6 weeks, there may not have been children in school but that doesn't mean the hard work stopped. Every holiday period is used to further enhance our school building and facilities, and this summer was no different; so what is new? We have had the Year 3 and 4 classrooms enclosed with new walls and doors as well as one of the Year 2 classrooms and the internal entrance into Nursery – the final classroom will be completed during October half term. The whole school has been painted and we have had new lighting to brighten up our corridors and learning spaces. The hall floor was replaced and now looks much fresher. In addition to this, the children have helped to make lots of wonderful new signage to help make the school really inviting.



Abbeywood Expectations:

AT ABBEYWOOD	AT ABBEYWOOD	AT ABBEYWOOD
WE ARE Ready TO LEARN	WE ARE Respectful	WE MAKE Safe CHOICES
Ready: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TO BE CURIOUS• TO THINK HARD• TO LEARN	Respectful: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OF OURSELVES• OF OTHERS• OF OUR ENVIRONMENT	Safe: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BY FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS• IN THE WAY WE MOVE AROUND• IN THE CHOICES WE MAKE

Children at Abbeywood are recognised for demonstrating our key expectations: Ready, Respectful and Safe. Each classroom has a recognition board that the teachers are using to identify the children consistently modelling our expected behaviours. There has been lots of faces on these boards already – keep it up Abbeywood!

Student leadership:

This week, our school council met to decide on our new celebration awards. We are excited to announce that the following awards will be given out in Friday's celebration assembly: 'Abbeywood Expectations Award' for recognition of our Ready, Respectful and Safe expectations; an 'Outstanding Orator Award' for children demonstrating confidence when speaking about their learning; and a chance to work together as a class to select an exciting new range of experiences with Epraise points that have been earned...more information to follow soon!



Dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 25th September – School photos
- Friday 25th October - School closed for teacher training day
- Monday 28th – Friday 1st November – Half Term
- Tuesday 19th November (3:30 – 6pm) and Wednesday 20th November (3:30 – 5pm) - Parents' Evening
- Friday 22nd November - School closed for teacher training day
- Friday 20th December – Break up for Christmas

A love of Reading:

At Abbeywood, we want all children to develop a love of books in order to become life-long readers.

To help develop this, children are encouraged to read everyday at home. All children have two books: a levelled/phonics reading book and a reading for pleasure book that they have selected from their in-class library. Please ensure all reading done at home is written into your child's reading diary and signed so that class teachers have an accurate log. Reading books and diaries should be brought into school daily please.

Epraise points can be earned each week:

Reading Rewards

- 1 read = 1 Epraise points
- 2 reads = 2 Epraise points
- 3 reads = 5 Epraise points
- 4 reads = 7 Epraise points
- 5 reads = 10 Epraise points
- > 5 reads = 15 Epraise points



Our new library:

After a patient wait by the children, we are excited to finally reveal our beautiful new library space so that everyone can enjoy an engaging and inspiring reading experience in school. Don't you agree that it looks amazing?



Please note: Newsletters will be sent out on the first Friday of every month from now on. Many thanks.

Communication:

The old saying of 'a problem shared is a problem halved' really is true. That is why we urge parents who have questions, queries or concerns to talk to us about them as soon as possible. We pride ourselves on our open-door policy and the visibility of senior members of staff. Your first port of call should always be your child's class teacher followed by the appropriate phase leader should you have further questions:

- Mrs Davies for EYFS
- Mrs Mills for KS1
- Mr Legg for KS2



Please speak with your child's class teacher on the door or you can arrange an appointment if you require a longer conversation.

Attendance:

What parents/carers must do:

- Report your child's absence each day on our website before 8:
(www.abbeywoodschool.org.uk)
- Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters. Regular check-up appointments should be booked outside of school hours.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival. You can also check on [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/) (www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport - call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so we can help!
Please ask for Mrs Hughes.

What the school will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.