

### Message from the Headteacher



As always, it has been a busy half term at The Abbey Primary School!

We had a visit from Simon Aston, the online safety lead at NCC, who ran some workshops for the children and training for staff, giving updates, advice and recommendations to continue to help keep our children safe online.

Year 5 are building up to joining Abbeyfield for their performance of Legally Blonde and the choir and African drummers are practising hard ready to perform at The Royal and Derngate for the InMAT Big Sing and School of Rock. Don't forget to book your tickets to what will undoubtedly be some amazing performances!

We're also very proud to announce that the Environmental Health came to school site for an unannounced visit to complete the food hygiene rating and we were awarded 5 stars!!! Well done to everyone involved. We have organised two parent/carer food tasting sessions with Dolce. The first sessions will be held on parents' evening on the 14<sup>th</sup> March in the school hall 4.00p.m – 6.00p.m and a second session on 16<sup>th</sup> March in the school hall 2.30p.m – 3.30p.m. More information will follow. I apologise for the recent changes of menu with Dolce and the need to rebook meals. I have shared our frustrations of the impact of the menu changes with Dolce management. These are unfortunately beyond our control and we will keep you updated as much as possible.

In Spring term 2 we will be holding parents' evenings and following the success of autumn term, we will be following the same format of parents/carers being given the choice of a virtual or face to face appointment (please see dates below). Please also remember that class teachers are always here if you need to speak to them to discuss anything about your child before parents evening.

We have had several new families join The Abbey Primary School this year and as always the children have been their 5 Bs when welcoming new children to help them feel safe and secure in their first few days. Its been lovely to see new children settle quickly and the building of friendships. A very warm welcome to all our new families.

A huge thank you to all the staff for their hard work and dedication to each and every individual child and to parents/carers for your ongoing support and communication. I'm so proud of our Abbey Primary community, coming together and supporting each other.

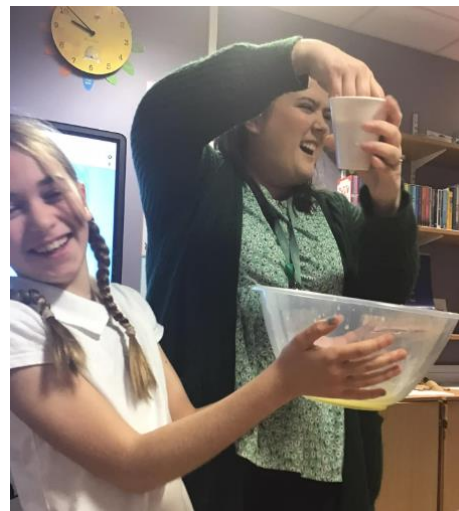
Have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing the children back to school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 8.40a.m.

### Learning in school...

Year 1 have been busy exploring our local area and visiting the Queen Eleanor cross. We have also been looking at toys and teddies as part of a non-fiction text for English, where we had a wonderful teddy bears picnic!



Year 4 conducted a Science experiment to support their Writing unit on explanatory texts. They revisited their knowledge of the digestive system and how food is digested. They mixed crackers and banana with water to represent saliva and juice to represent stomach acid. They then used a tight to represent the small intestine and a cup to represent the large intestine. They finished by writing a set of instructions about their experiment.



**Mufti Day –  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup>  
February**



**LEGALLY  
BLONDE**  
*The Musical*

Year 5 children have been given the opportunity to perform in the Abbeyfield production of Legally Blonde. Some of our Year 5 children have chosen to participate in this exciting event, which includes singing and dancing in the production's scenes.

The performances take place at Abbeyfield School on the evenings of Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th, Friday 10th and the matinee on Saturday 11th February 2023.

**KS2 Choir – The Big Sing - School of Rock – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The KS2 choir are joining the Big Sing at the Derngate again this year and performing the musical, School of Rock.



Tickets can be purchased for the concert from the Royal and Derngate box office (01604 624811).

<https://www.royalandderngate.co.uk/whats-on/nmpat-big-sing-school-rock/>

### Parents' Evenings

We will be offering an option of either a face to face or virtual appointments again this term. Parents evenings take place as follows:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 3.30-5.30pm – Virtual appointments

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 3.30-7.30pm – Face to face appointments in school

An email will be sent out after half term to inform you when the Arbor parents evening bookings are available.



## PE Kit

Children take part in PE lessons twice a week and these will be held both inside and outside. Please can you check that your child has outdoor PE kit in school, which consists of dark plain Jogging bottoms, a plain jumper/ hoodie and either plimsols or trainers. Children will need to have PE kit in school every day as on occasion the timetable may change.



## dolce schools catering Meal Bookings

Please ensure meal bookings have been made each week. We are increasingly needing to contact parents each week for forgotten meal bookings. Failure to book can result in parents/carers needing to bring a packed lunch to school. Menus are available on SchoolGrid right up until Easter.

## Academic Calendar 2023-24

School dates for 2023-24 are now available on the school website.

<https://www.abbeyprimary.co.uk/news-and-events>

## Bank Holiday Date – May 2023

Please be aware of the additional bank holiday date this year:  
The coronation of King Charles III is due to take place on Saturday, 6 May 2023. In light of this, the Prime Minister, has announced that there will be a bank holiday on **Monday, 8 May 2023**.

## Updating Records

Please make sure the school is aware of any changes to contact details or medical conditions for your child to ensure all information we hold is up to date. Changes can be made using the Arbor App or by calling/visiting the school office.

## Messages for School

If there are any changes to collection arrangements for your child, please call the school office by 12pm where possible or see your child's class teacher in the morning (EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2).

## Late Arrival to School

We have noticed a considerable increase in the number of children arriving late to school each day. Our lessons start promptly at 8.40a.m

When your child arrives late to school, he/she misses the teacher's instructions and the induction to the lesson. Your child may also feel embarrassed at having to enter the classroom late.

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of learning lost in a year
5 Minutes	3.4 Days
10 Minutes	6.9 Days
15 Minutes	10.3 Days
20 Minutes	13.8 Days
30 Minutes	20.7 Days



Frequent lateness can add up to a considerable amount and be detrimental to their academic and social development so please help your child to be punctual. If you need support with getting your child to school on time, please see Mrs Munns, our Family Support Worker.

## Parking

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who park sensibly and respectfully at the beginning and end of the school day. We really appreciate your support with this. Some local residents have reported a few people parking directly on driveways- can we please remind these few that this is not acceptable as this is private property.

## Follow us on social media!

Want to keep up to date on all the learning and events in school? Then follow us on social media- we're now on Instagram too!



## Dates for your diary

- **10<sup>th</sup> February - School breaks up for half term 3pm**
- **21<sup>st</sup> February - School re-opens 8.40am**
- **6<sup>th</sup> March - Choir and African drummers performing at the Big Sing**
- **13<sup>th</sup> March - Virtual parents evening**
- **14<sup>th</sup> March - Dolce parent/carer tasting session 4-6pm**
- **14<sup>th</sup> March - Face to face parents evening**
- **16<sup>th</sup> March - Dolce parent/carer tasting session 2.30-3.30pm**
- **30<sup>th</sup> March - Friends Easter disco events**