

Abbey Road News

24th February 2017



Abbey Road Primary School, Tewkesbury Close, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5ND

Tel: 0115 9748055

E-mail: office@abbeyroad.notts.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

Red Nose Day

We will be supporting the Comic Relief charity this year with a non-uniform day on **Friday 24th March**. Children are asked to wear something red or they would also be very welcome to wear one of the specially designed Red Nose Day t-shirts or other accessories. In exchange, any donation would be very gratefully received on the day.

Our School Council will be meeting with Miss Healy to share their ideas for activities to take place during the day and we are looking forward to a day of fundraising... with an emphasis on the FUN!

Red noses will be on sale from the school office (£1 each) from Wednesday 1st March. Children are asked to not bring the noses into school until the day itself as they can so easily get lost or damaged.

During the week before the event, children will find out a little more about what this wonderful charity achieves with the money raised. Many thanks for your support.

RSPB - Big School's Bird Watch

In the week before half term, our Sunshines and Rainbows were joined by volunteers from the RSPB. They shared many interesting facts with the children as well as helping the school to take part in the Big School's Bird Watch.

Our Eco Council took over the bird count at lunchtime and were keen to record all the birds they could see... despite their freezing fingers! We learned that pigeons, seagulls and magpies were definitely not frightened off by keen, birdwatching children but, during the quieter moments of the day, it was good to see many different species of smaller birds too. The RSPB were especially glad to see sparrows as their numbers have been declining in recent years.



Rushcliffe Arena – Arts Project

Twelve lucky members of Years 3 and 4 had the opportunity to work on a whole day art project led by local artist Belinda Poon on the theme of sport and recreation in Rushcliffe. The children had a great time creating wire sculptures depicting different sporting activities. These will be displayed in the entrance of the new Rushcliffe Arena together with art work from other local schools.



Friday 24 March

Samba Drumming

Having learned a lot about Brazil, Year 5's half term wouldn't have been complete without a carnival! The children spent the day creating colourful accessories to wear and learning Samba rhythms and moves – all of which came together for an extraordinary, end-of-day performance. Thanks to Adam – our samba teacher - for sharing his expertise and enthusiasm.



Year 1 Grandparents' Afternoon

Year 1 children had a wonderful afternoon sharing company, stories, games (and plenty of cake!) with their grandparents. 'Toys' had been the theme of the half term and, as well as thinking about their own favourite toys, making some new toys of their own and enjoying lots of story books on the subject, children also learned a little more about how toys and games have changed over the years and also how they have stayed the same. To research this idea a little further, grandmas and grandads were invited to school for an afternoon of tea and cake in exchange for a little information! Children quizzed our visitors, asking them about the games and toys they used to play with, and then had the opportunity to see and to test out some very well looked after childhood favourites.

Children also shared some of the songs they had been learning in school singing lessons and then very proudly showed grandparents around their classrooms and shared work with them.

Many thanks to family members who were able to join us – I hope you enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did.



Sporting News

Abbey Road children continue to take part in a number of different sporting events, trying their best, having fun and representing the school brilliantly. Lots more events are planned for this half term and many thanks to all the different members of staff and parent helpers who volunteer their time to accompany our keen athletes.

A special mention should go to Gaby Sutton from Year 6 who has recently been selected to represent the county in cross-country running at a national level after securing an excellent time at a recent competition. Well done Gaby!

And, on a more mentally challenging theme, our chess team are also playing brilliantly at the moment having secured a number of wins in the first round of their tournament. The second leg is coming up in March so I'll keep you updated on their progress.

Safer Internet Day 2017 – Keeping Children Safe Online

I think that most people would agree that the internet is an incredible resource. For children, it allows them to play, learn, create and connect - opening up a whole world of exciting possibilities. But we are also very aware of the importance of keeping track of what our children are accessing online and making sure that they're staying safe. Before half term, we took part in Safer Internet Day and all year groups explored the theme of staying safe online at an age-appropriate level.

We know that so many of our children access the internet in so many different ways and on so many different devices, many of which are portable. Whether you're an online expert or you're not sure where to start, 4 key tips to help you to support your child are:

- explore the online world together
- talk to your child about staying safe online
- manage the software and tools your family use
- agree rules about what's ok and what's not

If you are unsure about managing your child's internet access, parental controls are tools which you can install on phones or tablets, games consoles or laptops – and even your home broadband - to help you block or filter the content your child sees when searching online. Family-friendly, public WiFi can also help when you're out and about.

Parental controls are also available to help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- stop them from downloading apps they're too young for
- manage the content different members of the family can see.

So whatever your child is doing online, there's a way that you can help keep them safe. If you need any advice on applying these controls, the NSPCC has a really useful guide on its website.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

We also know from our conversations with children, that a number of them are using and communicating via many different social media platforms – some of which are not always age-appropriate.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk>

The above website enables you to learn more about some of the apps that children are accessing. It provides further details about how the apps work and the age restrictions that are placed on them. It may also be useful to know that some of the sites, most frequently accessed by our children, have alternatives that are far safer for younger children. For example, downloading 'YouTube kids' provides a filtered version of the website as it blocks all content that is not child-appropriate. It is always worth spending a little time researching the apps that children are using. For example, the popular app, musical.ly, has a social media facility for members which allows users to correspond with others – this is why an age restriction of 13+ is placed on members.

If you do want further information or guidance on any element of e-safety, the following websites are all very informative and are maintained regularly in order to keep up with the fast pace of the digital world! New apps and sites will continue to appear daily. It is virtually impossible to know and understand all of them. But although the sites and services our children use may change regularly, the messages to keep themselves safe remain the same – be kind online, think before you post and only communicate with people you know and trust. This is certainly at the heart of what we teach in school.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

<http://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk>

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you need any further advice.



Spring Music Concert

As you know, there is a music concert planned for Thursday 30th March, providing an opportunity for some of our many musicians to perform in front of an audience. Unfortunately, it simply isn't possible for every child in school who learns an instrument to take part in the evening event as we would be here long into the night! However, children will be given other opportunities to perform throughout the year – for example our 'Abbey Road's Got Talent' event in the summer term.

Music teachers who work with children in school, are in the process of working out which children will be performing and Glee Club will also be invited to perform.

In addition, we would like to invite some of our older children, who learn an instrument outside of school, to take part. We ask that children are 'performance ready' – at a stage where they are undertaking grades or playing their instrument with this level of confidence. If your child is in years 4, 5 or 6 and is keen to participate, please contact Mr Marshall or me next week and we will arrange a time to listen to them play so that we are able to draw together a varied programme. If children are used to playing together in groups or bands, then they can perform together. We cannot guarantee that all children will be invited to play at the spring concert event but, as mentioned above, other opportunities will arise throughout the year.

Letters providing more details of the concert will be given to performers during the next few weeks.

World Book Day – Thursday 2nd March

All hands on deck, batten down the hatches and roll-out the big guns for World Book Day next week!

Year groups have a whole range of pirate-themed literacy activities planned for the day and we're looking forward to seeing some eye-catching outfits as we step into the world of some rule-breaking rebels... just for one day!

Earlier this week, you should have received a separate letter about our 'Book Swap' activity. If your child would like to take part, they should bring in a book they have read and are happy to trade and in return, they will receive a token, which they can then exchange for a new book. Maybe they will uncover a new treasure!



Book Fair – Tuesday 7th March

There will be a book fair in the school hall on Tuesday 7th March – the first of our parents evenings. Unfortunately, we are not able to keep the books for the Thursday evening.

Extra-curricular Activities

Together with this newsletter you should receive a timetable of all of the extra-curricular activities on offer to different year groups this half term – as always, there is a lot going on around school! As these change after Easter, I will provide you with an updated version.

And just to conclude, I thought I'd share something with you that made us smile yesterday. In the morning, Mrs McNeill was greeted by one of our youngest children who announced very loudly: "Doris has come today and she's VERY ANGRY!" I hope that yesterday's dreadful weather didn't cause too many problems for you all and fingers crossed for a slightly less blustery and more pleasant weekend.

Ly Toom