

# ABBOTSWOOD SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'



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Headteacher: Mr G Moore

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Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Lower School Phase Autumn 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 3 and 4 children for the dedication and enthusiasm that they have shown towards their first topics of the year. The Year 3 pupils have settled seamlessly into their new classes and have had an incredibly successful transition from their infant schools. I would also like to commend the Year 4s for having an equally great start to the year, providing their Year 3 peers with fantastic role models. The resilience and commitment that the children have shown in these unprecedented times has been remarkable.

### Curriculum

*'Reading is dreaming with your eyes open.'*

This half term, Year 3 are reading *The Mousehole Cat* by Antonia Barber whilst exploring the geography, rock structure and appeal of Cornwall as a tourist destination; Year 4 are enjoying music, art and story writing that has a very magical feel, inspired by *The Nowhere Emporium* by Ross McKenzie.

#### *Topic Hook Days*

At the start of this half term, our Year 3s 'visited' Cornwall where they enjoyed sampling Cornish cuisine, created Cornish bunting and toured different Cornish locations. Year 4 were visited by local magician Jared Gale who wowed them with his impressive illusions - I'm not sure who was left more speechless at some of his tricks— the children or myself!

#### *Topic Outcomes*

This half term, Year 3 would usually invite their parents and carers in to visit their 'pop-up travel agencies' in order to persuade them to visit Cornwall. Because this is not possible this year, each class are planning to create a short video that will be shared with people from home. More information about this will be provided in a separate letter.

Year 4 will be celebrating their learning with our Year 5 cohort via Zoom, where they will share their artwork, perform their rehearsed music and read the stories and non-chronological reports that they have been writing this half term.

### Staffing



Miss K Dickson



Miss H Wilson

The Lower School Team would like to extend a warm welcome to Miss K Dickson and Miss H Wilson who joined us in October. Both teachers will be based in Year 3 throughout the Autumn Term and will each run small booster groups to address any gaps in the children's knowledge that may have arisen because of Lockdown. When with these teachers, children will cover the same topics that their class will cover but will benefit from learning them in a small group environment.

### Home Learning

Thank you for your continued support in providing your child with as many opportunities to practise their reading and times table skills as possible – *'It Really Does Matter'*.



**Reading:** Finding regular opportunities for children to read is so important so, if you have not done so already, please take the time to explore our new eBook and audiobook library. The platform is proving to be very popular amongst the children!

Using the ePlatform app from the App Store, type in Abbotswood and then use the log in details below. When using the app, the books will be temporarily downloaded to your child's device so your child will not need internet connection once the book has been loaned.

*You can also access the site via your internet browser by typing in this address:  
<https://abbsch-hantssls.wheelers.co/>*

**Username:** *First name.Last name  
(i.e. Roald.Dahl)*

**Password:** *library2020*

*Please use the Contact Form on the website if you need further help, or email Ms Webb via the School Office.*

**Maths:** Year 3 and 4 continue to 'rock out' on our online times tables game: Times Tables Rock Stars. Our teachers are becoming as competitive as the children in their weekly, interclass rock battles and it's a pleasure to see so many children being awarded for improving their speed, accuracy or effort.

Please keep encouraging your child to play at home or find opportunities to quiz them on their times tables facts for the national curriculum requires children reaching the end of Year 3 to have quick recall of their 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 times table facts. By the end of Year 4, children are expected to have a solid understanding of their times tables up to 12 x 12, including the corresponding division facts i.e.  $144 \div 12 = 12$ .

Whilst they have plenty of opportunities in school to practise their times tables, we encourage the children to practise them at home too. It is proven that regular stints of short, pacy practise are the most effective way for children to learn their times tables.

### Overdue books

Thank you to those of you who have returned outstanding library books from last year. We are still waiting for approximately 180 books, and would appreciate these resources being returned as soon as possible. If you have any queries about outstanding books, please email myself, Ms Webb, via the School Office.

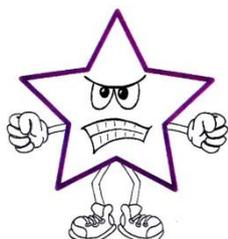
Ms Webb,  
School Librarian

### Promotional film

This half term, we have released a promotional film aimed at highlighting our many strengths as a school. The film, produced by Miss Jordan and myself, features 'Tommy Cam' (an insight into the school from Tommy's viewpoint) and a number of children from across Lower School who were only too keen to 'smile for the camera'. The film can be viewed on the home page of our recently renovated website.



### Wristbands



Congratulations to those children who have been awarded with one their STARS wristbands during the Autumn Term so far. Year groups have focussed on the values of Stickability and Teamwork to start the year and it is brilliant to see so many children sporting their purple or turquoise bands.



Dates	
Date	Event
<b>December</b>	
Wednesday 2nd	Year 3 visit to Totton – <b>cancelled due to lockdown.</b>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumper and MUFTI day
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas lunch and craft day
TBC	Year 3 <i>Home and Away</i> Topic Outcome.
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 <i>The Nowhere Emporium</i> Topic Outcome with Year 5

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr E Humphries  
Lower School Leader – Year 3 and 4