

ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'



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'It Really Does Matter'

18th September 2020

Year 5 Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a fantastic summer break and that the children are looking forward to the year ahead. Year 5 have already impressed us with their enthusiastic and responsible attitude to learning. It has been wonderful to see their smiling faces back in our classrooms!

In this newsletter, you will find general information that will allow your child to have a successful start to their year. A similar newsletter will be sent home each term, providing key dates and information. If you have any celebrations, queries or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher initially. As this cannot be done face-to-face at the moment, if you contact the office, the office team will ask the relevant teacher to telephone you instead.

The Year 5 team would like to welcome you and your child to Year 5 at Abbotswood Junior School:



Miss Dunning
Year Leader



Mrs Everett
Teacher



Mrs Hatfield
Teacher



Miss Patten
Teacher



Miss Parkinson
Teacher



Mr Dewhurst
Teacher

Curriculum

The Year 5 team have been working hard to develop an exciting and challenging curriculum that is tailored to meeting the needs of your children. For every new topic, you will receive a 'Learning Journey' booklet which will outline the themes of the learning should you wish to explore more at home. The booklet will contain the 'Rich Read' that the children are studying and will also give an overview of the subjects which they will be covering. A learning booklet providing greater detail on the learning journey of our first topic 'A Land Faraway' has also been sent home.

Uniform & PE Kit

Thank you for ensuring that your child has a named uniform and PE Kit. It makes it much easier to return lost items quickly to their owners when items are mislaid. Please could you make sure that your child wears their PE kit in school on the required days.

PE kit should consist of:

- a red or white T-shirt (or polo shirt)
- black shorts
- plimsolls or trainers
- warm tracksuits may be worn for outdoor games when the weather becomes colder.

Please note that because of the current timetabling, our school halls are in constant use throughout the school day. We have invested in a large marquee to provide additional space but still face certain restrictions. Because of this, your child will participate in outdoor PE unless the weather is too severe to allow it. On days where there is light rain, we advise parents to send their child in with a waterproof coat and a change of shoes.

If your child wears earrings and is unable to remove them for PE and games, can you please provide them with tape to cover the earrings as we are not allowed to remove earrings and they need to be covered for health and safety reasons. Please provide your child with a note if they are unable to take part in PE/Games lessons due to illness or injury.

The PE days for Year 5 are as follows:

Day	PE
Monday	5MD, 5KP
Tuesday	5EH, 5JD
Wednesday	5AP
Thursday	All classes
Friday	

Water Bottles

We encourage children to drink water regularly throughout the day as it helps them to concentrate and stay alert. Please send your child to school with a **named** water bottle. It would be helpful if you could remind your child to bring the water bottle home each day and to fill it with fresh water from home each morning.



Playtime snacks

Children are allowed to bring in a healthy snack to eat at break time. A number of children with severe nut allergies attend Abbotswood – **we are therefore a nut free school** and ask parents to not provide their child with nuts as a snack or for lunch at school.



Home Learning

Previously, Abbotswood children would have experienced three types of home learning:

- Reading
- Spelling or times tables home learning
- Optional, creative topic projects
- The Abbotswood Book Bingo competition

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions caused by the coronavirus outbreak, we are unable to set home learning in the way we would have previously done so. It is currently unsafe to have work going to and from school as it increases the risk of potential transmission. However, due to the time they have recently had off school, it is now more important than ever that our children have a wealth of opportunities to enjoy reading and have regular, purposeful practice of key spellings and times tables. Therefore, we have devised a list of alternative arrangements, outlined below:

Reading

We unfortunately are not able to send reading diaries home until we deem it safe to do so, under Covid-19 guidelines. However, we still appreciate the hugely important role reading plays in a child's education. Your child will be given 15 minutes each day to read their own book (provided by the school library). At the end of this session, the children will take responsibility to write what they have read into their reading diary. We will continue to read with children and listen to them reading. **We strongly recommend you continue to read with your child for 10 minutes every evening.**

The school has recently invested in an online reading platform where our children will be able to loan books in the same way that they would have done via our school library. Mrs Webb will send out a further letter with details for logging onto our e-platform library. This is an incredible resource that allows the children to virtually loan a book.



Maths and Literacy

As with reading, we will not be sending home maths or literacy homework until further notice. We do strongly recommend that you use Times Tables Rockstars to ensure your child has rapid recall of times tables. Practicing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division questions with your children at home will aid with their learning in school.



Parent helpers

We are always incredibly appreciative of parents/carers who volunteer their time to help with accompanying their child's class on a trip. We hope to organise trips for later in the year, when it is deemed safe to do so. If you are interested, please respond to any letters asking for a response.

Other Information

- As the school is now cashless, please can you not send any monies into school. Please could any money sent into school for trips, dinners or fundraising activities paid online through SCOPAY.

- If your child **needs** a mobile phone, it must be kept in their school locker. They will be responsible for looking after it. We recommend not bringing in phones unless it is necessary.

Thank you in advance for all your help and support this year. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries or concerns. We hope your child has a very happy and enjoyable year.

Please remember that the school website has a wealth of information on it - from the school calendar to suggestions to support your child's learning at home. If you use social media, we also have a very active Facebook page that provides regular information and reminders. We look forward to getting to know both you and your children further in the forthcoming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Dunning
Year 5 Leader