

ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'



'It Really Does Matter'

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Headteacher: Mr G Moore

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Year 6 Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer holidays and are enjoying the start to the new year at Abbotswood. The Year 6 team would like to welcome you all back to school and into Year 6. In this newsletter, you will find information to ensure your child has a successful time in Year 6. I will provide you with key information and dates for the following half term. If you have any further questions or queries, please contact your child's class teacher through the school office. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we are unable to make face-to-face appointments. However, we will all be available by email or phone. Allow me to introduce you to the Year 6 team:



Mr McCoy
Year 6 Year
Leader



Miss Di
Maiolo
Teacher



Miss Clarke
Teacher



Miss Ralph
Teacher



Mr Perry
Teacher

This year brings some exciting new challenges and adventures for the Year 6 children. They have already shown a growing maturity in their efforts to establish themselves as great role models for the rest of the school. We hope this excellent behaviour and positive attitude will continue and that all our children have a happy, challenging and successful year ahead.

Curriculum

The Year 6 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

Meet the Greeks



Year 6 Topic Overview
Autumn 2020
Term 1 (7 weeks)

the children are studying and will also give an overview of the subjects which they will be covering. Our topics are enriched with trips and visits and finish with an outcome.

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 is wearing their PE kit to school on the required days.

Autumn 1:

Monday: all classes (OSA/PE)

Friday: 6BP & 6AR.

The additional Friday PE lesson is in place this year as the children are now fortunate enough to have our music specialist, Mrs. Button, teach them for one hour on a Monday. This will be on a rotation basis each half-term. I will detail which class will participate in Friday PE in future newsletters.

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.

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 contact the office if they are unable to take part in PE/Games lessons due to illness or injury.

Although we have invested in a large marquee to provide additional space, children will only partake in PE indoors when decided it is not safe to do so outside. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat with them on the days they have PE.

Home Learning

In previous years at Abbotswood, your child would have been set maths or literacy homework weekly. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, it is currently deemed unsafe to allow items to be passed to and from school. However, we are aware of the importance of home learning and have therefore devised a plan to ensure your children are utilising as much learning time as possible.

Reading

Your child will be given a dedicated time slot 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.**

Ebooks



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. Again, more information will be given about this in a separate letter.

Maths and Literacy

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

Times Tables Rock Stars

As with reading, your child will have daily opportunities in school to practise their times tables. This week, we have re-launched the interactive online game *Times Tables Rock Stars* with the children. Your children will be familiar with this game. The interactive game gives our children the opportunity to experience regular, meaningful practice of their times tables and the corresponding division facts. The Year 6 teachers have setup class competitions where there will be a reward for the most participants. We will also spend time celebrating those children who are putting in effort to improve their accuracy of their times tables.



The National Curriculum aims for all children to have a secure understanding of all their times tables by the end of Year 4. It is imperative that the children use this incredible resource and continue to improve.

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 helpers.

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.

Other Information

- Children are encouraged to either bring a healthy snack (e.g. fruit, vegetable sticks, bread roll or dried fruit).
- Please send lunchtime drinks in plastic containers. Please ensure that these drinks are not of the carbonated variety. Only water may be drunk during the day.
- Please could any money sent into school for trips, dinners or fundraising activities is paid online through TUCASI. Please contact the office if you would like any support with using Tucasi.

Thank you in advance for all your help and support this year. Year 6 is an extremely important time in your child's education and we will be working on building the skills they will need in the future to ensure they are well prepared for the transition to Secondary School.

Please remember that the school website has a wealth of information on it - from the school calendar to ways 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.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Luke McCoy
Year 6 Year Leader