



Abbey Primary School Newsletter

January 2025

Right of the Month

Article 25: Children who do not live with their families should be checked on to make sure they are ok.

Wednesday 29th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and as we approach the end of the first month of 2025 it has certainly been a positive one for all pupils and staff here at Abbey Primary School.

The children have come back with positive mind sets and a focus to continue to improve and grow. They have been very engaged, and I am pleased by the way pupils have settled back into school life!

I really hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and a great New Year. Here's hoping for a prosperous and healthy 2025.

Staffing

As I mentioned previously on the School Story on Class Dojo, Mr. Alex Davies has been successful in obtaining the post of Deputy Head Teacher at Alltwen Primary School. Huge congratulations, Mr. Davies, you have thoroughly deserved this opportunity!!

This is obviously a bittersweet moment for us. While we are incredibly proud of Mr. Davies and thrilled for him as he takes this well-deserved step forward in his career, we are also saddened to be saying goodbye to such a dedicated and inspiring teacher. His positive impact on our school community, both in and out of the classroom, has been truly exceptional, and he will be greatly missed by us all.

To ensure a smooth transition, I am pleased to inform you that Miss Bowring will take on the role of Year 4 teacher (she is returning from her Welsh Sabbatical in the summer term) following Mr. Davies' departure after Easter. Additionally, for continuity and stability, Mrs. Griffiths will continue in the Nursery class covering Mrs. Williams' maternity leave. It also means we are able to keep Miss. Lois Evans, who has been a great addition to our Abbey family.

In relation to the important role of ALNCo, Miss. Lisa Dew has expressed an interest in becoming the Shadow ALNCo, and she will be working very closely over the next term with Mr. Davies to ensure a smooth transition in relation to ALN. In terms of a permanent replacement, that will need to be advertised internally during the next academic year.

I am delighted to announce that Miss. Chloe Thomas was the outstanding candidate in the position of Early Years Assessment Centre (EYAC) Lead Teacher role. She joins us having worked in Birchgrove's Specialist Teaching Facility. She is going to be a fantastic addition to our team whilst Miss. Richards enjoys the time with her new baby boy. Both Miss. Richards and her son are doing well.

On another note, I am thrilled to inform you all that Mrs. Kelly Harris (Mon & Tuesday), as well as Miss. Mollie Lambert (Wed, Thur & Fri) have been appointed as replacements for Miss. Carys

Hughes, who left the EYAC as a teaching assistant in October. We wish them well in their new positions too.

School Improvement Plan

As part of our self-evaluation and monitoring processes, we have identified 4 areas for school improvement. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) is a statutory document which we work on developing over one, two or sometimes three years depending on the objectives.

We have four main priorities for 24/25 which we finalised last term. They are as follows:

- **School Improvement Objective 1:**
To improve pupil attendance.
- **School Improvement Objective 2:**
To ensure pedagogy allows nearly all pupils make effective progress in line with expectations of Curriculum for Wales by developing a shared understanding of progression.
- **School Improvement Objective 3:**
To develop pupils mathematical and numeracy skills.
- **School Improvement Objective 4:**
To develop pupils' creative writing skills

Mid-year Reports

Mid-year reports will be distributed by teachers on **Monday 10th March at 3:30pm** via ClassDojo. A PDF document of your child's report will be sent and a link for feedback will be provided within the report like last year.

We received a huge amount of positive feedback from the way the reports were written and how supportive they were. We will be repeating this again this year, with an earlier summer term 'book look' for parents/carers to see the progress that has been made throughout the year.

Car Park and Parking

The new car park is really working well with nearly all parents/carers abiding by the rules. Just a gentle reminder the drop-off zone is exactly that in the mornings...it is NOT a car parking space. In the afternoons, it can be used for parking as we have nobody being dropped off at that time. It is dangerous when cars park there and then children need to manoeuvre between cars to get safely to the pavement.

Our 'in' barrier to the staff car park is currently out of action due to damage from Storm Darragh. It is hopefully being fixed soon, but please can I ask parents not use it as an excuse to drop the children off outside the school door when late. The access to the staff car park is for **AUTHORISED** vehicles only. Diolch.

Premises

The fencing along the staff car park has been amended with green mesh fencing which should prevent children climbing through and over the fence. The drop the other side of this fence from the gabion walls has caused me huge alarm, and I have raised these concerns with the local authority. They have agreed it is a huge risk and have sanctioned the fencing to be completed.

St. David's Day

We will celebrate St. David's Day on **Friday 7th March**, with an Eisteddfod. Pupils are encouraged to wear traditional Welsh costumes OR red/white/green.



Valentine's Discos

We will be providing a Valentine's Disco for all pupils on **Friday 14th February**. The disco will take place during the afternoon of Valentine's Day and is being run by our supportive PTA who have arranged for a DJ to play.

The pupils are welcome to wear party clothes or non-uniform on the day. The pupils will have a disco, plus refreshments for £2 donation. You can pay in cash to the office, but please put your child's name and the £2 in an envelope.

Confirmed dates for your diary

Date	Activity/Event
Wednesday 29 th January (6pm)	Choir singing at The Holocaust Memorial Event in the Great Hall, Swansea University
Thursday 30 th January	Parental Curriculum for Wales (CfW) workshop
Friday 14 th February	PTA Valentine's Disco (£2)
Thursday 20 th February	PC Jones to work with Y1 & 2 on 'People who help us.'
Friday 21 st February	INSET DAY
Monday 24 th Feb – Friday 28 th Feb HALF TERM	
Monday 3 rd March (WELSH WEEK)	Pupils and Staff return from half term break
Friday 7 th March	EISTEDDFOD
Monday 10 th March	Mid-year Reports to be distributed to Parents/Carers
Thursday 13 th March	Puberty Talk (Year 5)
Mon 17 th – Wed 19 th March	Year 5 Residential to Llangrannog
Monday 24 th March	Fire Brigade in to do Fire Safety Talks with Year 2 and Year 5
Wed 2 nd Apr to Fri 4 th Apr	Year 6 Residential to PGL Liddington
Tue 8 th and Wed 9 th April	Football First Fundraiser in school
Friday 11 th April	END OF SPRING TERM
Monday 14 th April – Friday 25 th April EASTER HOLIDAY	
Monday 28 th April	INSET DAY
Tuesday 29 th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 5 th May	BANK HOLIDAY
Thursday 8 th May	Nutrition workshops with School Nurse for Year 3 & Year 6

Yours faithfully,

Mr. K. M. Hodder
(Headteacher)