



Welcome Back

Welcome back to the start of a new Term and a new calendar year. I hope 2023 brings everyone much happiness and joy. I am also aware that we return to school at a time when illness continues to be an issue in society and schools are no different. Not only does the news report on a 'Twindemic' of Flu and Covid, but we still have children and staff suffering from group A streptococcus like symptoms. This isn't meant to alarm, but is to make you aware that ongoing cleanliness and hand washing, coupled with affording people space when speaking to them, are still two important ways we can reduce the spread in our schools and keep children **and staff** in school.

There is additional health information attached to the weekly newsletter email - so please open your email as well.

In school many children say they do not get to see the newsletter, please make the effort to load up the newsletter every week and discuss the contents with your children.

We keep you informed both on a weekly basis via the newsletter and via text as reminders/last minute reminders.

As well as keeping you informed, we also use these services to make emergency contact. This relies on our information being kept up to date. If you changed your telephone number / email address over the holiday - please tell us know now!

Finally, for now, please see below for updates on events and check the newsletter **EVERY FRIDAY** by saving this link <https://www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk/newsletters-and-letters> to your favourites; you will also be emailed and sent a weekly text message as a reminder.



Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-protection-in-schools>

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Diary Updates

Recent changes and additions to the original Diary Dates (published July 2022) are mentioned below, but please download and save the most up-to-date version here: [Diary](https://www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk/files/ugd/64c1c7_51db3ce4ae134baf9a1946d0ef92878c.pdf)
https://www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk/files/ugd/64c1c7_51db3ce4ae134baf9a1946d0ef92878c.pdf

Reminder: MTC Year 4 Workshops for Parents AND Children - 9th January Next Week
Year 4 parents will have received a reminder letter this week, to attend next Monday's after school session on the Multiplication Table Check, which their children will take in June. We will keep a register of those represented at the event, so we can track how our working together improves the outcomes for your children.

Change: Phonics Meeting for Year 1 Parents - 17th January 2023 - 6.30pm

Please note that as a result of Mr Edwards leaving the school and Miss Hayes being absent through illness this week, we have decided to move the Year 1 Phonics Meeting, for parents only, to Tuesday 17th January 2023. This means it is moved back a full week from the original date and time. As you know, we will only move things if absolutely necessary, but feel you will receive a better presentation when the staff are able to speak.



New: The Next Family Learning Event is... 21st February 3.15-4.30pm

Please pencil this date in your diaries. 3.15pm on the first day of Term 4 - 21/02/23

The focus will be **Well-Being, Mindfulness and Mental Health**. More details to follow, but please put this date in your diaries for children AND parents to join together.

New: The Abbey Meads Amble

(5K Fun Walk/Jog/Run - **SATURDAY 25th March 2023 - 11am**)

More detailed information to follow but for now...

Unless you are a world record holder everyone's sprint is someone else's amble.



THE ABBEY MEADS AMBLE is to raise funds for **Project Gambia** and our link schools in The Gambia and uses the event to focus on our own levels of fitness and encourage 'being active' within our community. AMCPS is an active school and seeing you all joining in this event, actively raising funds for those less well off than us, will be an amazing thing. £60 pays for a child to be educated for a year in these schools; that is uniform, food and education!

You can have a **family walk, jog with friends, try and get the fastest time** - whatever fits your personal circumstances.

We will ask those who join us to pay a **small entry fee or to collect sponsors** instead - again whichever works best for you.

Mr Shore and Mr Buckley have already mapped out a measured 5K route around the local pathways with regular Marshall Points.

There will also be other refreshments, food and fun activities and events available on the day. **So, save the date** now and keep your eyes open for the entry forms and sponsor forms, coming out before the end of this term.

If you want to use the event as an incentive to get from 'Couch to 5K' - you can follow these links to advice and help: [Get running with Couch to 5K - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Or [Couch to 5K plan: Six-week beginner 5k training plan \(runnersworld.com\)](https://runnersworld.com)

...but just getting involved for between 20mins (fastest) or a couple of hours (slow family walkers) is all we ask.

Reminder: KS2 SATS (National Tests in May for children in Year 6)

As I am sure you will be aware the country has another Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May 2023 for the Coronation of His Majesty The King.

This means the school will be closed on this date.

It also means that the SATs for Year 6 children will all move by 1 day from the originally published dates. Tests now start on Tuesday 9th and conclude on Friday 12th May.



The normal Newsletter format, house points, golden book, reports etc. returns next week.