



Covid Update

Thank you to everyone for your support over the past week, in which we have seen the largest number of Positive Covid cases since the pandemic began.

We have only just avoided having to close classes because of the dedication, hard work and commitment of our amazing staff team. They have covered throughout the school, often without proper breaks and this effort shouldn't be overlooked or taken for granted.

We even managed to run the two Year 4 Residential Trips to The Wilderness Centre.



As you can imagine, having 30% of your classroom staff and 15% of the children missing due to Covid, we will continue to ask you for support in keeping the school open. Whilst the government no longer feels that masks are necessary, we do and ask you to stay with us. We have very few regulations left in place but ask that you continue to follow the easiest one of all and wear your face coverings when on site and always when up close to our staff. If we lose any more staff, we may be forced to make difficult decisions regarding the closing of classes.

Many thanks, as always, for your continued support.



House Point Cup Weekly Winners

The House Points earned this week were...

Ridgeway	278pts
Avebury	273pts
Silbury	270pts
Kennet	268pts



Well done everyone!

Golden Book

Congratulations to the following children for being mentioned in the Golden Book Assembly today for their excellent attitudes and approach.

- George and Tola (Beech)
- Amara and Zak (Hazel)
- Imogen and Louie (1Birch)
- Jethro and George (1Alder)
- Lorna and Tilly (2Chestnut)
- Mark and Trelawny (2Hornbeam)
- David and Kyle (3Rowan)
- Olivia and Sebastian (3Sycamore)
- Eli and Isla EJ (4Juniper)
- Ava A and Olly (4Willow)
- Lydia and Lillia (5Ash)
- Ruby and Harry H (5Oak)
- Matthew and Lily (5Maple)
- Jacob, Ryan, Dillion, Sahara, Ann, Robert M (Year 6)



Well done to all of you - keep it up!

Gate / Assemblies Music

The poster giving details of each week's music is published in this newsletter, posted on Twitter, [@AMCPS_Swindon](https://twitter.com/AMCPS_Swindon) / [Twitter](https://twitter.com/AMCPS_Swindon) and shared with children in assembly each Friday. Next week is *linked* to the Chinese New Year!



Abbey Meads
Community Primary School.

Gate Music 2022 – 31st January to 4th February 2022

Tuesday 1st February marks the start of the Chinese New Year - Tiger

According to Chinese zodiac references, the tiger is beautiful, powerful and confident and people born in the Year of the Tiger are similarly empowered.

What year were you born in?
Can you work out which animal you are linked to and what qualities you are supposed to possess as a result?

The music chosen for this week is...
"Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor.
The track was written for a very different reason. The song was written and recorded for a fighting scene in the movie, "The Karate Kid", but when it wasn't used in that film, the director used it for Rocky III instead.

Whilst the lyrics refer to a fight, we all know that we can use words like this to mean 'face up to a challenge and 'fight' to overcome them!

This is a piece of Rock music.
Name 3 instruments that you can hear.
Does the pitch get higher or lower in the chorus?



Nursery News

This week we had a surprise visit from Goldilocks. We had the opportunity to ask her questions, so we could find out more about why she was in the woods by herself. The children were learning how to ask a question, to find out more information. This is quite tricky when you are 3. Great work Acorn class.



A Special Mention for Super Manners

We were told today that Ophelia from Beech finishes her dinner every day, takes her tray up to be cleared and then heads back into the kitchen to thank the cooks for her food. **Every single day.**

It is the smallest things that make the difference, and here we have one of our smallest, leading the way. **Well done Ophelia - you should be very proud.**



Big Garden Birdwatch THIS WEEKEND

Be wowed by your local wildlife. Big Garden Birdwatch is for everyone, whether you're a complete beginner or a birding expert. Simply count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 28 and 30 January 2022.



Register here: [BIG Garden Birdwatch 2022](#)

Year 4 Enjoy Wilderness Residential

Well done to all our Year 4 children who attended the residential trips to the Wilderness Centre this week. The children enjoyed Tunnels, Archery, Bushcraft, Crate Stack, Team Building, Low Ropes and Orienteering as well as Evening Camp Fire songs and a Spooky Night Walk in the Forest.

They were all wonderful company as well as being superbly behaved. They tried all the activities and, in many cases, surprised themselves by how brave and adventurous they are.

Thank you to Simon and the centre staff for a wonderful week and of course to our amazing staff from Abbey Meads, who gave up time with their own families to make the trips possible.

Mrs Dangerfield, Mrs Rees, Mrs Turner, Miss Ball, Mr Buckley, Mrs Woods, Mr Shore, Miss Spring, Mrs Cunningham, Mrs Ferguson and Mr Maguire...

THANK YOU!

There have been so many pictures shared on Twitter

[AMCPS-Swindon \(@AMCPS Swindon\) / Twitter](#)

and Mr Badger has updated the Website Gallery.

<https://www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk/gallery>

Keep an eye on the Website as more photographs emerge next week.



Happy Birthday Mr Bicknell

Mr Bicknell has been coming to Abbey Meads for over 22 years.

Even though he retired he still comes every week to read poetry to the children and engage in Book Talk.

Today we wished him Happy Birthday for Sunday, when he turns 70. He says it is just a number, which he proves every week!



Calling all Guides and Scouts

You may be aware that, in Girlguiding and Scouting there is a special day on 22nd February called Thinking Day or Founder's Day. On this day all members of Girlguiding and Scouting celebrate to remember their founders, Lord Baden-Powell and his wife, Lady Baden-Powell, both of whom were born on 22nd February.

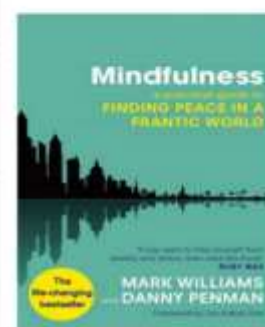
On this day they think about the Promise, the Girlguiding and Scouting heritage and other Guide and Scout members all around the world.

Since this day falls in half term this year, members may wear their uniform to school on Friday 18th February, to shout out about Girlguiding and Scouting.



MINDFULNESS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

A practical guide to looking after yourself in the midst of parenting



6 WEEK ON-LINE COURSE

Adapted from the bestselling book "Finding Peace in a Frantic World" by Mark Williams & Danny Penman. Also including informal meditations that you can share with your child/children.

STARTS MARCH 3rd 2022

Subsidised Cost: £50

FREE TASTER SESSIONS

Find out more

Thursday 10th Feb - 8-9pm

Thursday 17th Feb - 8-9pm

Mindfulness offers many benefits: it helps our mental and physical well-being and has been shown to alleviate anxiety, depression, stress and chronic pain.



COURSE GUIDE
Susie Stead is a freelance mindfulness teacher based in Oxford. She was trained and competency assessed by the Oxford Mindfulness Centre (OMC) and is an OMC teacher. She also has 3 now adult children.
www.susiestead.com/mindfulness-teacher
<https://www.facebook.com/mindfulnessinxfordshire>

For an application form or further information, please contact:

Chris Smith
Community Centre @ Christ Church, Development Manager
Mob: 07582 305760
Email: chris@christchurchswindon.co.uk

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