

5th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new school year. I hope you had a successful summer break and that your children, if not you, come back sufficiently refreshed and ready to go for another school year.

This is a quick 'reminder' letter, regarding things you may find useful in the first few days. The normal Friday News will come out as well on Friday, and is sent home every Friday in term time throughout the school year. Please share the Friday Newsletter with your children every week.

New telephone or email address? - Please make sure you tell us this information NOW.

We rely on parents to tell us the right contact details so we can keep in touch with you, but even more importantly to get in touch in an emergency. To keep your child safe and be the first to find out if there is an emergency, please update your details if they change. This includes any additional contact numbers we may have for friends and family when you are unavailable.

School Uniform - Please follow the uniform rules. They are simple and we allow all normal school colours and there is no requirement to have logos. We do insist on **PE Kit** that matches the school policy and is well fitting. Children wearing football tops, crop tops, ill-fitting fashion shorts will be given spare kit to wear and letters sent home reminding parents of the correct PE Kit. ([Uniform Letter Here](#)) Children should wear correct PE kit to school on days they have PE, to maximise the time available for actual PE. Children should wear their school sweatshirt on top of PE Kit and when cold, tracksuit bottoms can also be worn. **Earrings** should be studs only and need to be removed / taped over for PE.

Attendance - I reminded all last year about potential prosecutions for taking children on holiday in term time and this position remains. We are duty bound to report those taking unauthorised holidays in term time. It is possible that 'taking the fine' may not be an option for you, as Local Authorities have the ability to move straight to Court and prosecute parents. [Term Dates](#) are on the website.

School day timings - Currently the school day starts with the gates opening at 8.20am but will close very quickly at 8.40am. This allows for parents to avoid the crush at 8.20am but lessons and learning start as soon as children enter the classroom at **8.30am**. Children arriving late each day may also be reported and face similar fines as persistent lateness also adds up. Please ensure your child arrives before the gates lock and if at all possible by **8.30am**.

Over time we will reduce the time the gates are open and they will lock earlier.

Check dates on the website - the [Diary Dates](#), published in July, are on the school website.

Below are a few more things you may find informative if new to our school.

There will be more on Friday in the normal newsletter format, but for now - welcome back, thank you for helping us create a safe and successful place for your child to learn.

When possible, be kind... it is always possible!

See you all soon, either on the gate or at the curriculum evenings next week.

Bob



Abbey Meads Community Primary School

USEFUL INFORMATION TO KNOW

Curriculum Briefings are held once a year for each year group at the beginning of the first term. Parents are encouraged to attend an evening meeting where teachers for that year group will go through all you need to know.

The meeting usually lasts about half an hour and you have the opportunity to ask questions too.

Dates were set last July - please see [Diary Dates](#).

Parent Consultation Evenings (Parents Evenings) are held twice a year where parents can make appointments through the school's online booking system to see their child's teacher. You can choose either 10 mins face to face or 10 mins through video conference.

(First come first served basis for booking)

Parent Forum meetings are a chance to hear first-hand from the Headteacher, Mr. Buckley, what is happening in and around the school.

They last about an hour and you have an opportunity to ask questions too.

Newsletters are emailed out **every Friday** to the email address you have provided on the emergency contact form. This will have all up to date information. The newsletters are also on the website: www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk

Topic Webs and letters provide information about what your child will be learning for the upcoming term. These are on the website under the [Classes](#) tab.

House Point Cup Weekly Winners

Every week we announce how many House Points were won by each House. House Points are awarded for excellent Citizenship. These are collected all year with Weekly, Termly and Annual Winners. Last year all Houses together collected over 66,000 points.



If you have any questions, please come and speak to the school office, open from 7am-4pm or call on 01793 723239 or email *(note the change)* admin@abbeymeads.bluekitetrust.org

Class Assemblies are held once a year for each year group. Parents and Carers are invited along to watch. They start at 9am and last up to 30 minutes. Dates for your child's year group were published in July - please see [Diary Dates](#).

Family Learning Events are held a couple times a year, each with a different theme after school has finished for the day. They are advertised around the school nearer the time.

Book Looks are held several times a year between 3-4pm. This is the chance for you to come into your child's classroom and they can show you their work. These are not meetings with teachers, just a chance to share time with your child in the classroom.

ParentPay is the school Online Payments System where you can order lunches, pay for school trips and book your parent consultation times. You will be given a letter with instructions on how to set this up.

School Discos are held 5/6 times a year at the end of each term.

They cost £3 and are run by FOAMS PTA.

Rec & KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) - 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Drink & biscuit are included in the price.

KS2 (Year 3,4,5,& 6) - 6.15pm - 7.30pm

Drink & biscuit are included in the price and

children can bring extra money if they want to buy fizzy drinks, chocolate and sweets.

Children enter through the Community Room from outside (not through the reception area).

Children will be held in the Community Room until it is safe to enter the hall/disco.

Children from both discos are collected through the school hall.

Parents are asked to keep coats and not leave them at the disco.

All children **MUST** to be picked up by an adult.

Mobile phones are NOT permitted.

Contact Details

Please ensure we have your most up to date mobile numbers and email addresses.

Essential for safeguarding your child!