

Abbey Meads
Community Primary School

Welcome to Abbey Meads Community Primary School



Bob Buckley, Headteacher says...

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Abbey Meads Community Primary School.

Learning Opportunities

In our wonderful school, children are introduced to exciting learning opportunities that not only prepare them for the next stage of their education, but for the rest of their lives.

Family Feeling

We are small enough for everyone to know each other, and for us to develop a safe and secure environment with a 'family feel', while being large enough to offer excellent facilities and opportunities for the children. It is the best of both worlds!

Creative Learning

Our 'impressive curriculum' (Ofsted 2015 quote) is based on a thematic, 'Topic Based Approach', which focusses on developing lifelong learners. It aims to inspire the children, while developing their ability to become independent learners and thinkers.

The best teachers show you where to look - but not what to think!

All classes take part in active learning outside the classroom, both in our own school environment and further afield on school trips, including three residential trips, during their time at the school. Our broad and balanced curriculum includes three years of free music tuition, where the children are taught to read music and play a tuned instrument.

Partnership with Parents

I am very proud of the way we work closely with our parents to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children, including many

opportunities for parents to have an input into school development; for example through the Parent Forum Meetings held with me three times a year.

As well as the normal parent meetings, we regularly run Family Learning workshops, some of which involve parents watching the teachers and children learning together in the classroom. We offer a large number of sporting, musical and drama performances to attend, and termly opportunities to visit the classroom and look at your child's progress.

"Our boys are very happy at Abbey Meads and have a real love of learning. The staff are friendly and approachable and always make the time to discuss and address any concerns we may have. It is evident as you walk around the school that, alongside academic learning, there is a real focus upon the importance of manners and respect for, and acceptance of, others." **Sharon Baker - Abbey Meads Community Primary School**



Citizens for the 21st Century

I am very proud of the standards achieved by each individual child in our care and the progress made by all children of all abilities and needs. I am, however, most proud of them as current and future citizens. Our children not only develop life skills with regard to learning, but also advanced personal and social skills that equip them for the bright futures they all hold.

We measure our success as a school through attitudes to learning, polite behaviour and overall decency as much as anything else.

Come and see us in action

Hopefully you collected this prospectus on your visit and you already know what a wonderful

place our school is to grow and learn. If not, please do get in touch.

Our warm and welcoming office staff will be delighted to hear from you and it will be my pleasure to show you around. There is nothing like seeing us in action to find out what our school is all about.

Get in touch

The Staff and Governors of Abbey Meads Community Primary School are very proud of our children and our school. We welcome visits from parents and carers who would like to find out more about what the school has to offer. To arrange an appointment please email: admin@abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk or telephone 01793 723239.

Behaviour and self-development

High standards of work and behaviour are expected at all times. We expect all adults to act as role models for the children and the older children to act as role models for the younger children; setting a good example by their own behaviour.

Building Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is not so much what a child thinks, but much more about what they feel inside. These feelings can produce success or failure, in relationships as well as in their learning.

Confident and Independent Learners

We expect children to behave well and work hard within a supportive framework, which will help them to develop skills at the right level and as a foundation for their future lives.

We help the children to become confident and independent learners, by talking to them about how they learn, creating a culture of 'having a go' and by encouraging their participation in setting their own targets.

School rules and rewards

We have a positive behaviour management code and good behaviour is encouraged, recognised and rewarded.

School day

What are our School Hours?

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 8.30am - 3.00pm | Monday to Thursday |
| 10.00am - 10.15am | Break Time |
| 12.00pm - 1.00pm | Lunchtime |

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 8.30am - 1.30pm | Friday |
| 10.00am - 10.15am | Break Time |
| 11.30am - 12.30pm | Lunchtime |

Sunshine Club

Breakfast Club

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 7.30am - 8.30am | Monday to Friday |
|-----------------|------------------|

The Breakfast Club includes a healthy breakfast and a chance to run around, be active and enjoy sports before school.

After School Club

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 3.00pm - 6.00pm | Monday to Thursday |
| 1.30pm - 4.30pm | Friday. |

Uniform

A simple uniform is helpful in establishing good standards of appearance in school and by wearing it we hope children quickly feel a sense of equality, partnership and belonging.

School Lunches and Snacks

The kitchen provides excellent school lunches. All children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 receive a free school lunch. Children can also bring in a packed lunch. Our school lunches provide very flexible options. Other dietary requirements, including vegetarian options, are also available. We provide menus fortnightly to help you and your child choose which options you would like.

Break-time and drinks

Under the Fruit in School scheme children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 are entitled to a piece of fruit or vegetable each day free of charge. This is given as a playtime snack. Milk is available free of charge to all children under five or to those entitled to a free school lunch when ordered by the parents. Otherwise, milk, to have at break time, can be ordered through The Cool Milk Scheme.



"Abbey Meads School has been fantastic over the years in providing a great parent/ teacher relationship, whether it be the head teacher meetings where we find out about school developments, Open Hours where I can view my daughters' work and see the classrooms, parent/ teacher meetings where I can really understand one to one how they are getting on with school life and studies, Curriculum Meetings where I can see exactly what they are going to be learning over the next year or extra workshops where I can be involved with my children at the school, for example planting seeds or playing sports. The teachers are always available to speak with and go above and beyond the level of support expected, providing ideas for learning at home. I will always be interested in my daughters' education and Abbey Meads have made this as easy as possible in providing the best information and support." **Laura Smith - Abbey Meads Community Primary School**



Butterflies Family Centre for children under five years

Butterflies Family Centre is based at Abbey Meads Community Primary School and forms an integral part of the school under the leadership of the Headteacher, on behalf of the Governing Body. There is a Family Centre Manager, who manages all day to day issues on behalf of the school, along with several Family Support Workers and Admin Support.

Butterflies covers a wide area across the North of Swindon. If you have a child under five - or would just like to find out more about what Butterflies can offer you - please visit the Butterflies website www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk/butterflies.



BUTTERFLIES FAMILY CENTRE

Curriculum



Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

- **Foundation Stage 2 :** ages 4&5
- **Key Stage 1:** ages 5-7
- **Key Stage 2:** ages 7-11

Reception (FS2)

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Key Stages 1 and 2

Areas of the curriculum for children in Yr1 to Yr6 are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Computing
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Design Technology
- Music
- French
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education.



Centre of excellence

It is our aim to make Abbey Meads Community Primary School a centre of excellence. We provide a caring, stimulating and exciting learning environment, where children feel valued as individuals and where everyone has a role to play in the life of the School. We hope it is a place where adults and children alike can reach their full potential. In our School, children are encouraged to fulfil their potential intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. We aim to produce well-rounded individuals who have the skills and positive attitude to maximise all opportunities presented to them, so they can enjoy life to the full.

"Lee and I love the way the staff at Abbey Meads care for the children. Our children love coming to school, because they know that they are looked after and cared for in an outstanding way. They feel safe and valued, and as a result they go from strength to strength, no matter what life might throw at them." Vikki and Lee Griffin - Abbey Meads Community Primary School



Houses

At Abbey Meads we have a House system. This means that all children are linked to a House - Avebury, Kennet, Ridgeway or Silbury - and collect points for their excellent behaviour and attitudes in school. Each house has two House Captains selected from our exemplary pupils in Year 6. There are opportunities throughout the year for the Houses to compete against each other, but always in a positive manner. These may range from sport and art to strategy and public speaking. The House Point Cup is awarded every week to the House with the most points earned.

Collective Worship

Each week children attend two whole school assemblies with the Headteacher and further assemblies take place with other staff members, which are held in Key Stages. The assemblies follow the agreed scheme of themes for collective worship, which are broadly Christian but also reflect a number of World Religions and aspects of Citizenship and Moralistic behaviour.

Enriched Curriculum: trips and visits



Trips

We aim to enrich the curriculum by visiting places such as theatres, museums and galleries. We use themed days so that the children are given experiences and trips linked to their learning and curriculum work. Pupils also have the opportunity to attend residential visits in Years 4 and 6.

Previous trips have included:

- RAF Brize Norton
- Warwick Castle
- Seaside
- Bristol Aquarium
- Corinium Museum
- Local Farms
- Isle of Wight - a residential visit
- The Earth Summit
- Young Voices Concert
- Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London.

Residential Trips and Visitors

In Years 4 and 6 the children have the opportunity to go on residential trips for activity weeks. The cost of this is heavily subsidised by the school to make it affordable to all. Additionally, we arrange visits to the school by theatre groups and those with professional expertise such as singers, artists, musicians, dancers and sports coaches.



"Julia and I have always been impressed by the individualised curriculum, which provides an engaging, fun and exciting learning environment, both within lessons and on field trips in the local area and further afield, matching the teaching to the needs of the children. We have two very different children who are recognised and supported both academically and socially based on their individual interests and needs." **Julia and Paul Cooper - Abbey Meads Community Primary School**



Your child's achievements

Teachers make ongoing assessments of all children in order to ensure appropriate planning for the next unit of work.

We like to celebrate your child's achievements with you in a variety of ways throughout the year.

As well as formal parent meetings and Open Hours (see page 15), we also have other whole school events such as Sports Morning, the Musical Extravaganza and Class Assemblies by each class.

We also extend the children's learning by holding three Special Weeks each year, where we often have additional visitors and activities to inspire learning even further.

School reports

All parents receive an annual written report from the class teacher at the end of the summer term.



Inclusion: a curriculum for all

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Many children at some point in their education have a special educational need. This may be temporary due to a bereavement, family breakup or illness or longer term with a specific learning difficulty or physical disability.

Planning and Assessment

The progress of each individual child is very important to us and we take these needs into account in all our planning and assessment of the curriculum. Parents are always involved and consulted if their children have additional needs. We modify the curriculum where needed to ensure that all children can access education. Where appropriate a referral to an external agency may be arranged. Children may be added to the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Register, to help them reach their potential. Above all, we want to raise the self-esteem of all our children and give them the skills to enjoy life in and out of school.

SEND Co-ordinator

Our SEND Co-ordinator is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the SEND policy and co-ordinating educational provision, in consultation with the Headteacher, class teachers and any other relevant agencies.

Access

Abbey Meads Community Primary School has an Equal Opportunities Policy and does not discriminate against any individuals. We actively promote a caring ethos within our school. Our building meets all existing legal requirements for children and adults with physical disabilities.



"Abbey Meads has given both our children a great start to their school lives. Our daughter left for senior school after seven fantastic years and our son is in his fifth year having a similar experience. We would recommend Abbey Meads to anyone and cannot speak highly enough of it. The teachers really understand our children and have a fantastic knack of working them hard, but in a fun way, ensuring they get the most out of each day. Such an idyllic environment for the kids to start off their education."

Neil Tovey - Abbey Meads Community Primary School



Gifted, Talented & More Able Children

Gifted, Talented and More Able children may constitute between five to ten percent of a class. Their ability in one, several or all areas of the curriculum, means that the teacher will need to provide more challenging activities within the topic being taught. The most able children are identified by the class teacher through test results and observation. Some children may be talented in a specific field such as performing arts or sport.

We always welcome the opportunity to celebrate successes achieved both within school and through clubs attended outside the school day.



Clubs



There are a wide variety of lunchtime and after school clubs for children to enjoy at Abbey Meads. Recent examples include:

- Football
- Netball
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Running
- Rounders
- Hockey
- Film
- Dance
- Chess
- Board Games
- Art & Craft
- Construction
- Eco Club

Sport

Our aim with PE and sport at Abbey Meads is to provide opportunities for physical learning for all pupils. We want all of our pupils to be happy and healthy and enjoy

physical activity. As a school we strive to provide new and varied physical activities for children before, during and after the school day. We believe that PE and sport enhances academic learning and leads to healthier, happier and more productive lives. We have Pupil Play Leaders, pictured above, who lead playground games and sports activities during break times.

Music

For those children interested in music, we provide Year 3 pupils with recorders who then progress to clarinets in Years 4 and 5. Instruments are given on a free to loan basis, while they learn.

Facilities

Supporting the learning and school experience

We are very fortunate to have some excellent facilities to benefit the children and support their learning and school experience. We have a large combined Library and ICT Area, which can seat every child in a class plus others who need to use the library for research. This is in addition to classroom computers and iPads for use throughout the school.

Interactive

We have interactive panels in every classroom. These move up and down, so that both the children and the teachers can use them at an appropriate height ensuring that the ICT capability is used for both teaching and learning.

All year round outdoors activities

We also have two astro-turf pitches, which means we are able to provide outdoor activities and sport all year round.



Admissions

Children are admitted into Reception in the September following their fourth birthday.

Admission into Reception

We do not control our own admissions. Swindon Borough Council deals with all admissions to our school. Places are allocated strictly according to the published admissions criteria. Any unsuccessful applicants will be offered an alternative place by the local authority, but may remain on our waiting list until a place becomes available.

Admission into other year groups

Parents who wish to transfer to Abbey Meads Community Primary School must complete an in-year transfer form, available online at the website below. Admissions will be considered by Swindon Borough Council Admissions Team in relation to available places, and the current waiting list, within the year group for which you have applied.

Applications

Swindon Borough Council's contact details for the School Admissions Team are as follows:

Tel: 01793 445500 (Admission Team)
Email: schooladmissions@swindon.gov.uk
Web: www.swindon.gov.uk/schoolplaces



Getting involved

Parents are very welcome at Abbey Meads and are kept fully informed. We operate an open door policy. The curriculum is regularly shared with parents through newsletters, workshops and open days. We want you to be informed, involved and interested in all aspects of school life. We hope you will be able to see and talk to the teachers on a daily basis at the end of the school day. (See page 2 for timings).

Involving Parents

We hold four 'Open Hour' events a year, where you can come in and see the children's work, as well as the expected formal consultation evenings, held twice a year, and written reports in July. Parent Forum Meetings are hosted three times a year to allow interested parents to become involved in strategic development.

Family Learning Events

We hold regular Family Learning Events to extend our partnership with parents in supporting children's learning at home as well as at school. Recent examples of such workshops have included:

- Reading
- Maths Problem Solving
- Sports
- Camping
- Survival Skills
- Art & Craft
- Environmental Studies



Parent Teacher Association (FOAMS)

Our PTA is called Friends Of Abbey Meads School, otherwise known as FOAMS. It was formed in October 1999. FOAMS subsidises coach trips for each class and has purchased some exciting and stimulating playground equipment and items to support the children's learning. FOAMS also aims to create a sense of community and organises various events for the school including discos, quiz nights, raffles, table top sales and the hugely successful Summer Fete.

Do you want to join FOAMS?

We welcome any ideas for fundraising and encourage parents and carers to share these with us. Information about meetings are included in the school's weekly newsletter, so keep an eye open for this. Please come and share your talents with our school!

Voluntary helpers

Parents and extended family members are welcome to come into school to help or to share an area of expertise or interest to enrich the curriculum for the children. We also welcome parental support with activities such as cooking and listening to children read or helping them to change their library books as well as accompanying children on school trips. All volunteers must have a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service clearance. Please contact the office for more information on this.

Governorship

The Governing Body is made up of parents, staff and members of the local community. The Governors meet every term to discuss strategic developments for the school and to receive reports from the Headteacher, who is delegated the day to day running of the school site.

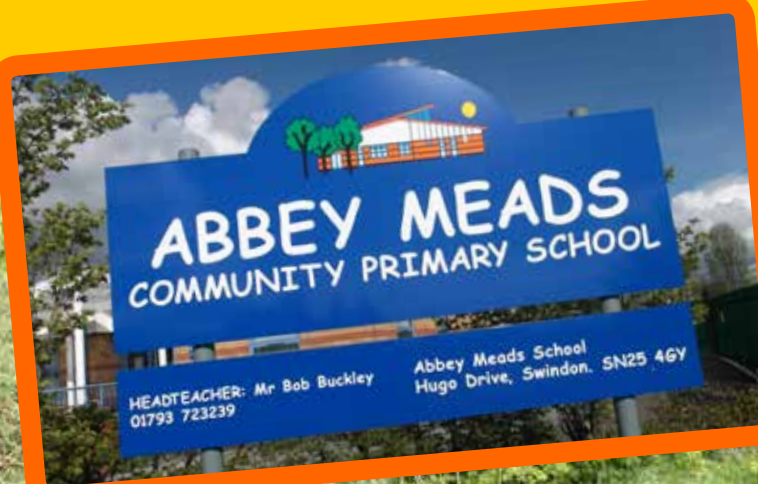
There are several committees with all Governors attending Full Governing Body meetings and selected Governors attending specific Committees.

Do you want to be a Governor?

Our Parent Governors give parents a voice in decision making. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the clerk by emailing: governors@abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk



How to find us



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