



# Abbey Meads Community Primary School

Hugo Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN25 4GY

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Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 5! We hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and are looking forward to another exciting term here in Reception.

Thank you to everyone who has booked Parents Evening appointments, we look forward to meeting with you this week to share your child's progress.

Our topic for this term is 'Isn't it amazing...?' We are really excited about all the activities we have planned which include exploring curiosity questions generated by the children during previous discussions. We will be looking at how toys have changed, how music is made and how plants grow.

On Wednesdays, we are lucky enough to have a specialist dance teacher from Swindon Dance come to see us. She has choreographed a superb routine with some funky music. During our Friday P.E. lessons, we working on our fundamental balance skills! We will be using a range of equipment, learning shapes, balances and sequences. Please ensure your child is wearing named PE kit on **Wednesday** and a **Friday** and appropriate sports footwear. Children should be wearing their school jumpers alongside their school PE kit.

In phonics this term, our focus will be to revise all phase 3 sounds and recognising them within words. We are having a big push on reading this term and will continue with a Tricky Troll word focus on a Friday.

We will continue to change the children's Reading books on a Monday and Friday. They will also bring home a library book each week which is for you to share with them.

We really appreciate you spending some time practising phonics and reading at home. We will be working hard in school to encourage the children to sound out and blend words independently so please encourage them to do the same at home. We also encourage repeated reading of the same text so your child develops confidence and fluency. This is the beginning of your child's journey to learn to read and your support will make the biggest difference! Please sign or comment in their reading log each week so we can monitor which books they have read, understood and enjoyed.

The children are securing their number bonds to 5 facts and we are proud of how well they are doing with this area of the EYFS. They are now beginning to explore the related subtraction facts. E.g.  $5-3=2$ . It would be fantastic if you could support your child with reciting these at home.



This term we are developing the outdoor area to give the children access to our new 'play pod' (currently named the Abbey Meads Shop).

We have been collecting lots of loose parts and large construction resources that the children can use in their open-ended/ imaginary play. We have been supported by the Wiltshire Scrap Store and some local businesses who have provided us with items such as cable drums, tyres, pallets, plastic tubing and waterproof fabric.

We are also grateful to FOAMS who have made a generous donation towards helping us buy some new resources specifically for the outside area. We have plans to develop the small world, gardening, water, construction and loose part play areas. With this in mind we ask that you remind the children not to enter the play pod shed or reading den before and after school. We are trying hard to keep the resources tidy and in the correct places so kindly ask that children are supervised in the outside area at drop off and collection times.

Please look at our Topic Web on the school website where you will find more information about what we are doing this term and the mini topics we will be covering. We will also put weekly updates on Tapestry.

Thank you for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to get in contact with us should you need to.

Mrs Iliffe, Mrs Hayward, Mrs Painter & Mrs Newman