

ABBOTSWOOD SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'



Ringwood Road
Totton
Southampton
SO40 8EB

Telephone: (023) 8086 3159
E-mail: admin.office@abbsch.co.uk
www.abbotswood.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr G Moore

Thursday 29th January 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to say how proud we are of Year 3 and 4 for how hard they have worked through the Autumn Term. All of the lower school teachers have been so impressed with how engaged the children have been in their learning.

The spring term is an exciting time for lower school, offering immersive topics filled with engaging and enriching opportunities.

Curriculum

This half term, Year 3 are enjoying Roald Dahl's classic *James and The Giant Peach*. They have enjoyed learning about New York and North America in Geography, investigating nutrition, skeletons and muscles in Science and soon will apply their knowledge by making a healthy sandwich in Design Technology.

Year 4 are having a distinctly magical half term by reading '*The Nowhere Emporium*' – a book about an enchanted shop that travels through time. They have made collages of their own magical worlds and will soon use presentation software to create short documentaries about a Wonder from The Nowhere Emporium.

Next half term, both year groups will step back into the past as they enjoy two history-led topics. Year 3 will explore the period of time between the Stone Age and Iron Age in Britain in their topic 'A Step Back in Time' and Year 4 will investigate who was responsible for the sinking of the Titanic in their topic 'Tragic Titanic'.

Home Learning



Space Race



We ask children in Year 3 and 4 to read 3 times a week and record this in their reading diary. Currently, every single child across lower school is participating in our weekly Space Race reading competition: an incredible accomplishment! Please support your child to make their 3 entries each week and remind them to hand in their reading diary. For Year 3, this is on a Thursday and for Year 4, this is on a Wednesday.

Additionally, all children are expected to play 5 games on Times Tables Rock Stars. We have been so impressed with how much participation has increased in lower school during the Autumn Term. In June, schools in England will be required to administer an online multiplication tables check for Year 4 pupils. Playing a **minimum** of 5 games each week will ensure that all lower school children are as prepared for this as possible.



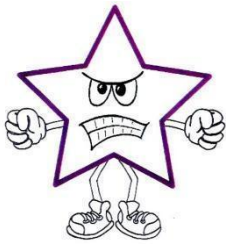
Trips



Next half term, Year 3 will be taking 'A Step Back in Time' by visiting Testwood Lakes Education Centre and spending a day 'in role', experiencing life as a Bronze Age tribe.

Similarly, Year 4 will enjoy a trip to the Southampton Sea City Museum where they will learn about the fateful events of 1912 as part of their topic: *Tragic Titanic*. More information will be given about these trips in separate letters.

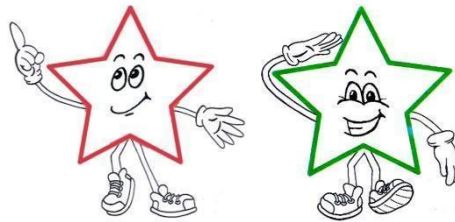
Wristbands



Congratulations to those children who have been awarded with one of their STARS wristbands during the autumn term. Year groups focused on the values of stickability and teamwork to start the year and it is brilliant to see so many children now sporting their purple or turquoise bands.



This term, the children are learning about aspiration and respect with the aim of working towards their red aspiration band and green respect band.



SCRATCH

This half term, Year 3 are learning to program an online computer game. Whether your child is in Year 3 or Year 4, they may be interested to know that the program they use in school (Scratch) can be accessed online at home for free. If your child would like to access Scratch online, please click on the link below. The program can also be easily downloaded by scrolling to the bottom of the page, finding the 'Resources' section and clicking on 'Download'.

<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

PE

Please ensure your child is wearing an appropriate PE kit on their PE and OSA days. Below is a guide on what they should and shouldn't be wearing in school:



Dates

Dates for Year 3 Spring Term		
Date	Event	Parent Helpers Required?
February		
Monday 23rd	Year 3 'A Step Back in Time' Hook Day	-
Thursday 26th	3EH visiting Testwood Lakes Education Centre- Bronze Age Role play Day	Yes
Friday 27th	3SW visiting Testwood Lakes Education Centre - Bronze Age Role play Day	Yes
March		
Thursday 12th	3ZR visiting Testwood Lakes Education Centre - Bronze Age Role play Day	Yes
Friday 13th	3LP visiting Testwood Lakes Education Centre - Bronze Age Role play Day	Yes
Friday 20th	3RH visiting Testwood Lakes Education Centre - Bronze Age Role play Day	Yes
Wednesday 25th	Year 3 visiting St Winns Church - Easter Service	Yes

Dates for Year 4 Spring Term		
Date	Event	Parent Helpers Required?
February		
Thursday 5th	Stubbington Spaces open on Arbor (7am)	-
Monday 23rd	Year 4 'Tragic Titanic' Hook Day – children dress up. More information to follow.	-
Thursday 26th	4SB begin swimming lessons	Yes
March		
Monday 9th	4LD & 4BA to Southampton Sea City Museum	Yes
Wednesday 11th	4SB to Southampton Sea City Museum	Yes
Wednesday 18th	4LP & 4ME to Southampton Sea City Museum	Yes
Thursday 19th	4PC to Southampton Sea City Museum	Yes
Tuesday 24th	Year 4 visiting St Winns Church - Easter Service	Yes
Friday 27th	Tragic Titanic Parent Outcome (9.15 - 9.45)	-

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Humphries

Lucia Di Maiolo

Mr E Humphries
Year 3 Leader

Miss L Di Maiolo
Year 4 Leader