

ABBOTSWOOD SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'



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Headteacher: Mr G Moore

Thursday 18th September



Year 3 and 4 Autumn Term Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your children have experienced a relaxing and pleasurable summer holiday and are enjoying the start of a new term at Abbotswood. For those of you who are joining us from infant schools, welcome! For those moving up from Year 3, welcome back! In this newsletter, you will find general information that will allow your child to have a successful start to their year. A similar newsletter will be sent home each term, providing key dates and information. If you have any further celebrations, queries or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher initially. Appointments can be made via the school office. Please let us introduce you to the lower school teaching team:

Year 3



Mr E Humphries (3EH)

Miss L Parkhurst (3LP)

Mr S Williams (3SW)

Miss Z Robinson (3ZR)

Mr J Ponting (3JP)

Year 4



Miss L Di Maiolo (4LD)

Mr P Cox (4PC)

Miss L Peckham (4LP)

Miss Hibberd (4AH)

Miss Davies (4AD)

Our Curriculum

It is our goal to provide a curriculum that stretches, challenges and inspires the children. Each half term, the children will be immersed in a topic that surrounds a **'Rich Read'** – a powerful example of children's literature that will provide a stimulus for the children's learning. The topic will stem from a **'hook'** which will inspire, motivate and excite the children; it will be enriched by trips and visits and will finish with an **'outcome'** – a product of all their learning from that half term.



Highlights of the Year

Year 3

Year 3 have already been visited by the ambulance service and local artist, Simon Chadwick. During the first half of the Autumn Term, they will meet a dog from the 'Pets As Therapy' charity. They will also visit Totton Library.

In the second half of the Autumn Term, they will participate in a walk around Totton which will look at several aspects of the town. Finally, they will go on to visit Testwood Lakes in the Spring Term.

Year 4

As in previous years, the year group plans to run trips to Stubbington Residential Centre the The Southampton Sea City Museum, and to the New Forest; these three trips have previously been very well received.

The children will be visited by local artist and author Simon Chadwick and we are hoping to see a real-life magician in the Spring term!

During the year, each class will also get a chance to visit the local swimming pool for swimming lessons.

At the start of each new topic, you will receive a 'Learning Newsletter', which will outline the children's learning journey through the topic. The newsletter, which you will have received already, contains the themes of the topic and an overview of the subjects that your child will cover that half term should you wish to explore them more at home.



Reading and Times Tables – the building blocks of learning

Reading

Your child will have daily reading lessons at school. Additionally, your child's teacher and LSA will listen to them read as often as possible. Outside of school, your child will participate in a weekly home learning challenge – The Space Race.

Times Tables

As with reading, your child will have opportunities in school to practise their times tables. As a school, we use the popular times tables platform 'Times Tables Rock Stars'. The interactive game gives our children the opportunity to experience regular, meaningful practice of their times tables and the corresponding division facts. The Year 3 and 4 teachers will set up class competitions to encourage participation. We will also spend time celebrating those children who are putting in effort to improve the accuracy of their times tables.

The National Curriculum requires **all** children to have a secure understanding of all their times tables by the end of Year 4. It is really important that the children use this incredible resource and continue to improve.

Home Learning

In Lower School, your child will have two weekly home learning opportunities linked to reading and times tables. These will start in **Week 4** of this half term. A letter explaining this will be sent out in due course.

Water Bottles

We encourage children to drink water regularly throughout the day as it helps them to concentrate and stay alert. Please send your child to school with a **named** water bottle.



Playtime snacks



Children are allowed to bring in a healthy snack to eat at break time. A number of children with severe nut allergies attend Abbotswood – **we are therefore a nut-free school** and ask that parents **do not** provide their child with nuts as a snack or for lunch at school.

PE

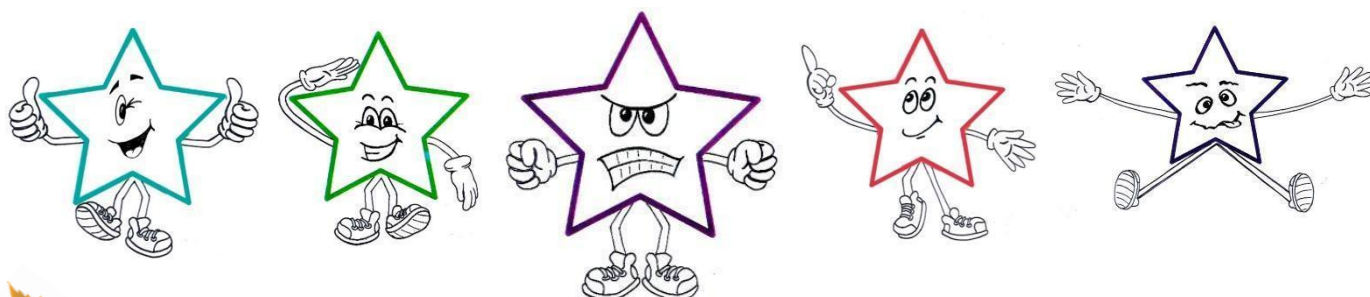
Your child will have two opportunities each week to enjoy PE. Their year group will have a designated afternoon where they will enjoy Outdoor Sport Activities (O.S.A.). Each class will have an additional session on a separate day where they will do PE with their class. Refer to the table below to see the day of your child's O.S.A. and PE sessions. **Please ensure that your child is wearing their named PE kit in school on their designated PE days. They will be allowed to remain in kit all day.**

Day	Who needs to wear their kit?
Monday	3EH, 3JP, 4AH, 4AD
Tuesday	3SW, 4LD, 4LP, 4PC
Wednesday	All Year 4 Classes 3ZR, 3LP
Thursday	All Year 3 Classes

Please name every item of your child's clothing. In such a large school, it is very easy for items to become misplaced. Ensuring that your child has a named uniform and PE kit makes it much easier to return lost items quickly to their owners when items are mislaid.

Wristbands

Your child will be familiar with our five STARS values. These values are interwoven into your child's daily learning to help develop them into well rounded members of society. Congratulations to those children who have already been awarded with one of their STARS wristbands – it's brilliant to see so many children now sporting them around school. This half term, we will be focusing upon the value of 'Stickability' with the aim of encouraging perseverance in our children.



Thank you for your support. We hope the children enjoy sharing their learning experiences with you at home.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Humphries

Lucia Di Maiolo

Mr E Humphries
Year 3 Year Leader

Miss L Di Maiolo
Year 4 Year Leader



Autumn Term Dates

When?	What?	Parent support required?
Thursday 10th September	4PC swimming lessons begin (weekly until 22nd October)	Yes
W/B Monday 21st September	Whole School Home Learning starts	-
Thursday 1st October (More information to follow)	Year 3 Parent Computing Briefing 6.00pm - 8.00pm	Yes
W/B Monday 5 th October (Individual class dates to follow)	Year 3 class visits to Totton Library	Yes
W/B Monday 12th October (Individual class dates to follow)	Year 4 class visits to the New Forest.	Yes
Thursday 22nd October (More information to follow)	Year 3 Topic Outcome 9.15am - 10.00am.	Yes
Friday 23rd October	Year 4 Topic Outcome 9.15am	Yes
Monday 2nd November	INSET Day	-
Tuesday 3rd November	Year 3 and 4 Hook Days	-
Thursday 5th November	4LD swimming lessons begin (weekly until 17th December)	Yes
Date TBC	Year 3 Trip to Totton	Yes
Monday 9th November (More information to follow)	Year 3 Reading Cafe 9.00am - 11.00am	Yes