

Abbey Primary School Newsletter

Friday 28th April 2023

Summer Term 2023- Issue 15

News and updates

We welcome you back after what I hope has been a lovely Easter break. Many of you will have been able to spend time with family and friends and with the lighter nights and mornings, it certainly feels a little more like summer. I hope that you were able to take advantage of the HAF programme, if entitled or the activities put on by RIC, at Hednesford Park or Walsall College. We will have more information about HAF in the summer holidays, and we would welcome parents input into how this looks and how engagement can be improved going forward. Please see myself or pass ideas on via the office.

The first two weeks back have seen children get back into their learning brilliantly, some with new teachers and all with new topics. Please look out for your year group or key stage newsletters for information about what is being learnt this term.

This week 50 children from across Y1, Y2 and Y3 attended Woodlands Camp, some staying overnight for the first time. All the children had a great time and showed courage, bravery, team work, enthusiasm and support for each other throughout the two days. I would like to thank the children for being excellent examples to each other and their teachers and all teachers and support staff who attended over the two days, particularly those that stayed the night, and didn't get much, if any, sleep.

School closures

It is unfortunate that next week we are closed on Thursday 4th May for elections. We have no choice as to whether our school is used, we are instructed by Walsall Council that they need the building. The way our building is laid out means that we can't section off its use for members of the public, without it impacting on the safeguarding of children in school.

Also for the next two Mondays we will be closed for Bank Holiday and this coming Tuesday, 2nd May is the final known day that most of school is closed for strike action.

Staffing update

I am pleased to let you know that our nursery teacher, Mrs Waring, is pregnant. She will be due to start her maternity leave at the commencement of Autumn Term 2023, and we will keep you updated with how this affects her class for next year.

Mrs Smith, our new SENCO & Mrs Baker, Y4 teacher, have now started at Abbey Primary School and below is a little bit of an introduction from Mrs Baker.

Thank you all for being so welcoming to me since my arrival at Abbey, everyone has been so supportive and wonderful. I have been teaching for 5 years now in another Walsall school, leading RE and taking responsibility for the last three years for Year 6 SATS and as a mentor for university students. When I am not teaching, I am a Mom to three beautiful children and can either be found cheering Walsall on at Bescot Stadium or scoring at Pelsall Cricket Club where I am Vice Chairwoman. I look forward to getting to know you all better over the next few months and please feel free to come and say hello and ask me any more questions that you may all have.

After School Club

Wraparound club is becoming more popular with some days where we are now full. Due to staffing ratios we do have a limit to wraparound club and it is imperative that children are booked on via the office. Please do not be offended if we cannot guarantee a place for your child. We request that payment is made at the time of booking and that if payment cannot be made, we cannot hold a place which may forfeit another child's place, whose parent has paid or can pay. Please contact the office for clarification about this.



Y6 SAT's week—Tuesday 9th May—Friday 12th May

On the dates above it is imperative that all of Y6 attend each day to complete their SAT's. We would still expect that if children are unwell that they attend, even if it is just for the test. We will try and support with this as best of possible.

The pupils have worked so hard and I wish them all the best as they show off what they have learnt.

Online safety parent workshops

Thank you to those parents that attending the online safety parent/children sessions. For those that came we hope you found it useful. We will look to put on additional sessions if needed, so please see the school office or Mr O'Toole or Miss Bullock (Computing leaders) if you have a particular topic you want to find out about.

Basic Digital Course

Please see details on the poster below, if you are interested in attending a free basic digital course, run by Walsall College, held on the Mossley Estate.

Sports Week and sports days

We have now given details of the sports week, where pupils can come dressed in sports clothes, in a previous letter. We have tried to give as much notice as possible, and welcome parents attending on the day your child or children are taking part.

The week is starting on Monday 26th June. On this day children will take part in a dance workshop. On Tuesday 27th June and Wednesday 28th June, Trigolf and/or foot-golf will go ahead with Mr Sanders from Streetly Academy.



KS2 sports day is on Wednesday 28th June, 9.15am until 12pm at the latest

Nursery sports day is on Thursday 29th June, 9.15am-10.15am

KS1 and Reception's sports day is on Friday 30th June, 9.15am-12pm at the latest.

On Monday 3rd July, sports week comes to an end with a climbing wall for pupils to have a go on. This will only be for Reception to Y6.

Attendance update

So far this year, we have shown an improvement overall in our attendance, from the Autumn Term. I am hopeful that this will continue and each week the winning class wins an award in our celebration assembly. It is really important that if your child is absent from school that parents contact the school with a reason for absence. If no contact is made we will try and call the main number. Please do not be offended if we, or an attendance officer, have to make a visit to confirm children are safe.

Marvellous Me

Unfortunately we have had to make a decision to no longer use the Marvellous Me for communicating between parents and class teachers. The main thinking behind this decision is due to finances and a number of classes are now using Google Classroom to send information home.

For some parents you will notice no change, but for others please look out for more information from your class teachers, regards Google Classroom.

School Meal Price Increase

From Monday 17th April 2023, the cost of school dinners has increased to £2.15 per day. You can continue to pay via ParentPay.



***FREE BASIC DIGITAL COURSE FROM WALSALL COLLEGE WITH MOSSLEY WELLBEING GROUP**

Mattesley Court Community Room, Cresswell Crescent, Bloxwich, WS3 2US
Every Friday from 28th April - 26th May, 1pm - 2pm
If you can't make the first week, you're welcome to join any session

These sessions will include:

- Tips & hints on how to use your mobile phone or tablet
- How to connect to the internet
- Staying safe online
- Downloading & understanding apps, including WhatsApp

Call 01922 657000 to register your interest in these sessions or email
CommunityDevelopment@walsallcollege.ac.uk
*free for households with income below £30,000 per year



Walsall College

Dates for the Diary

Monday 1st May—Closed for **May Day Bank Holiday**

Tuesday 2nd May—Closed for all but Reception & Nurture due to teacher strikes

Wednesday 3rd May—Class photos in school

Thursday 4th May—Closed for local elections to all year groups.

Friday 5th May—King's Coronation celebration event, including an Afternoon Tea for Reception to Y6. A burger or hot dog.

Monday 8th May—Closed for **King's Coronation**

Tuesday 9th May—Y5 swimming starts

Tuesday 9th May—Friday 12th May—Y6 SAT's week, all Y6 in school all week.

Monday 15th May—YR-Y2—Beebots and Scratch computing session in school. Y6 at Black Country Museum all day.

1pm-2pm & 2pm-3pm Reception Parents Walk (more details to follow)

Tuesday 16th May—Police visiting EYFS

Thursday 18th May—Y3 at Cadbury World all day & Fire Service visiting EYFS

Monday 22nd May—Y5 computing session - Microbits session in school

Tuesday 23rd May—Y6 computing session - Microbits session in school

Wednesday 24th May—Y3 computing session—Robotics session in school

Thursday 25th May—Y4 computing session—Robotics session in school, 2.15pm, Online safety workshop for YR children and parents

Friday 26th May—Break up for Whitsun, at normal time.

WHITSUN HALF-TERM

Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June 2023

Monday 5th June—start of summer term 2

Thursday 8th June—Dance club attending Dance festival at Forest Arts Centre

Friday 9th June—Y5 visit to Walsall Art Gallery, more details to follow

Monday 12th June & Tuesday 13th June—Bikeability L1&L2 for Y6 and Y5 pupils (aged 10 and over) - more details to follow

Wednesday 14th June—9am, New to Reception parents meeting

Thursday 15th June—KS1 trip to the seaside

Friday 16th June—Street teams (online safety & exploitation) sessions for Reception to Y5

Wednesday 21st June—9am, New to Nursery parents meeting

Monday 26th June—Dance workshops all day as part of Sports Week, inc. sports days—KS2 9.15am
Wednesday 28th June, Nursery 9.15am Thursday 29th June, KS1 and Reception 9.15am Friday 30th June

Tuesday 27th June—Y3 and Y4 computing session—Robotics in school. Tri-golf as part of sports week.

Wednesday 28th June—Tri-golf as part of sports week. 3pm, PTA Summer Fayre

Thursday 29th June—Y6 visit to the theatre to watch 'The Demon Dentist'

Monday 3rd July—Climbing Wall in school as part of sports week

Thursday 13th July—Y6 PROM

Friday 14th July—EYFS Graduation (times to follow)