

10th July 2015

Dear Families,

We have had a fantastic art week this week with drumming, dancing, painting, paper cutting and making totem poles. Thanks to all who helped and to Mrs Mather for organising it all. I apologise for this long letter - there is so much going on!

Leaver's Ball Friday 17th July 6:30-8:30pm

All school children are invited to the Leaver's Ball which is held in the Village Hall. The dress code is formal and a list of food required is on the office door. Please add your name to contribute. We also need to borrow rope/fairy lights and recent music CDs which will be returned on the night.

The Village Hall will be opened at 2pm to start setting it up for the evening. All helpers will be most welcome.

The evening starts with formal dance which parents may stay and watch if they wish. This year Dai and Allan Stewart have kindly offered to judge the dancing. Children will then need to be collected at 8:30pm.

Shirts/ Overalls for Art

Our school collection of shirts/ overalls is well past its best. Please could every child in Y1-6 next academic year bring in an overall/shirt labelled with their name for them to wear for Art/ DT. Children in Nursery and Reception already have aprons in the classroom.

Spelling Bee

The Spelling Bee was very exciting on Tuesday - all the children did a great job. A special mention goes to the Y1 children Eva, Ben, Libby, Ruby, Lucy-Jo and Scarlett who got through many rounds in a very close contest. The following children are through to the final which will be on their same list of words.

Sophie, Olivia F, Ben A, Lucy-Jo, Ruby, Sam E, Sam F, Daniel, Heidi, Joe, Ben B, Jake, Archie, Ellie, Grace I, Freddie.

Everyone is welcome to come and watch the final at 3pm on Friday 17th July.

Parent/Guardian Questionnaire-Please could everyone complete one-it would be really helpful

Attached is a Parent Questionnaire. Each year we write a school development for targets/ things to work on for the next year. In the coming year some of the things to be included are:

- Behaviour particularly manners at lunchtime. We are working towards a nationally recognised gold award for behaviour.
- Spelling and presentation of work throughout the school.
- Times tables and written calculation accuracy in maths.
- A new classroom on the men's club land.

If you can think of things you would like us to work on please feel free to put them on your questionnaire.

Abbeystead's Got Talent

Children can do any act. They can show things they do outside school or work out an act with a friend. They must be no more than 3 minutes long and each child can be in a maximum of 2 acts. Parents are welcome to come and watch and it will be held at 2:30pm in the Village Hall.

Grammar School Entry Tests

Grammar school is not the right school for everyone and we are lucky to have many excellent schools in the area. However, we do have a good number of children who could pass the test given the correct preparation.

The Grammar school entry test is extremely competitive. We have a good number of children who could pass the test but they are competing against children from private and state schools from all over Lancaster and Preston who are also receiving extra tuition for more than an hour a week for several years.

So it is up to Parents/Guardians to ensure their children are well prepared. I have decided to run a Verbal Reasoning/ Maths/ English club to help children prepare but this is not in itself enough to enable children to pass the test. They need to be practising the tests at home until they are averaging at least 75% on each paper within the time. They cannot do really well in Maths and have a lower score in English. They are looking for all round high scores. Some of the work will not yet have been covered as they are tested on all Y6 work and the test is in September.

If you have any questions about the process please come and see us.

Clubs Next Term- Seems a long time away!

If your child would like to attend any clubs please fill in the attached slip and return it to school with the money. Please note there is no Sports club on the first day back.

Monday-Sports club- 4:30pm (starts 14th September) 6 weeks £6 for the half term.

Tuesday - 11+club (starts 8th September for Y6 Pupils taking the entrance exams at the end of September - £6 for 3 weeks) and 1st October for children in Y4/5 wishing to take the entrance exam. (£8 for 4 weeks) Board games club

Wednesday - Gymnastics Club starts 9th September £7 for 7 weeks

Thursday - Emmett's Kids Club

Attendance

Our attendance statistics are really low this year due to a lot more than usual children taking holidays in term time and people not bringing in notes to explain absences. This amounted to 169 unauthorised absences.

I am completely sympathetic to the costs of holidays in school holidays and the educational benefits of holidays but please could you try to link any holidays to coincide with a school holiday, then if they overlap it will only be by a few days. Easter is not in its usual place next year so that may offer cheaper holidays! For reasons of child safety we must be informed on the day of absence. This is because a child could have set off for school but not arrived and we would be unaware. From September any child absent without a reason will receive a phone call to check their whereabouts.

All absences must be followed up with a brief note about the absence. These are then kept on file and are a legal requirement.

Reports/Parents Afternoon

You should receive your child's (Reception-Y6) report today. The format is a bit different to previous years. Assessments for children in Y2 and Y6 are the same as in previous years but this year is the 1st year of the new National Curriculum and from next year there will be no more levels. Instead children will be working to achieve the 'expected' level of progress for their age group. The 'expected' actually represents a good achievement as the assessments are at a higher level than the previous National Curriculum. It is extremely difficult to be exceeding expectations and do not worry too much if your child is not yet 'expected'. We have reported our new assessments in the report but these are just a guide. I have also enclosed an explanatory leaflet.

The Parent's Afternoon is a drop in session if you have any questions about the report or your child's progress. Please wait in the junior classroom and I will be available in my office and Mr Corbett will be available in his. Mrs O'Brien (SENCo) will also be available if you would like to see her.

Y6 children can keep their reports but please could all other children bring their reports back to school.

Auction of Promises

The last time the Friends of the school held an Auction of Promise was in November 2011. The event raised an amazing £6500 and we have arranged another one for 20th November 2015. It seems a long time away but will come round surprisingly quickly. We need as many pledges as possible to auction on the night. Last times big sellers amongst many others were a helicopter flight, Bed and Breakfast at Higher Lee, a signed Chas Jacobs print, rag rug and a Christmas Cake. We had a 116 lots in total and it was a great evening.

We are now looking for pledges and ideas for places we could contact for pledges. Please fill in the attached slip with as many ideas as you can think of and return it to school before the end of term. We will get the children to write request letters to companies and people in September. We are raising money to build and equip a new classroom on the former Men's club area.

School Uniform (school jumpers and cardigans available from Mike's Schoolwear in Garstang)

Just a reminder about school uniform for next year.

Boys - Grey trousers/ pale blue or white polo shirt and royal blue school sweatshirt. Black school shoes

Girls - Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers white polo shirt and royal blue school cardigan or sweatshirt, black school shoes.

PE Kit - White t-shirt, black shorts, trainers, spare socks, black or navy tracksuit in a draw string bag

Swimming - One piece costume or tight fitting swim shorts/ trunks, swimming hat for girls, towel, goggles (if slip signed) in a drawstring bag.

Drum Trek

The children had an excellent drumming lesson with Paul on Thursday. He is taking part in a large fund raising event and I have attached a leaflet with details.

Award Cups

Please could all trophies be returned next week.

Term Dates

Attached is a list of term dates for next year. They are also available on the website.

No Jewellery club - There will no jewellery club on Thursday due to Parent's Afternoon any costs will be refunded.

School Website

www.abbeysteadschool.co.uk.

Accelerated reader <https://ukhosted9.renlearn.co.uk/2241743/>

Yours truly,

Mrs Fiona Ip
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Mon 13th July- Rounders club -4:30pm

Tues 14th July - Fun club- 5pm

Tues 14th July- Abbeystead's Got Talent 2:30pm All welcome

Wed 15th July - Freddie's Assembly all welcome 3:10pm

Thurs 16th July - NO Jewellery club- 4:30pm

Thurs 16th July - Violin Concert 1:15pm all welcome

Thurs 16th July - Parent's afternoon to discuss reports 2-6pm

Fri 17th July - Spelling Bee final

Fri 17th July - Leaver's Ball 6:30-8:30pm

Future Diary Dates

Tues 21st July - Leaver's Assembly 2:00pm

Wed 22nd July - Awards Assembly 11:30am School finishes for summer 1pm

Mon 7th Sept - School reopens Autumn term

Tues 8th Sept 11+ club Y6/ Games club- 4:30pm

Wed 9th Sept- Gymnastics club- 4:30pm

Thurs 10th Sept- NO Swimming

Thurs 10th Sept - Kids club

Fri 11th Sept- Individual photos- family groups welcome 8:45am

I would like my child/children.....to attend the Sports Club and I enclose £6 for the half term.

Signed.....

I would like my child/children in Y6.....to attend the 11+ Club and I enclose £6 for 3 weeks.

Signed.....

I would like my child/children in Y4/5.....to attend the 11+Club and I enclose £8 for 4 weeks.

Signed.....

I would like my child/children.....to attend the Board Games Club and I enclose £7 for the half term.

Signed.....

I would like my child/children.....to attend the Gymnastics Club and I enclose £7 for the half term.

Signed.....

I would like my child/children.....to attend the Sports Club and I enclose £6 for the half term.

Signed.....

Auction of Promise Pledges and Ideas List

I pledgetowards the

Auction of Promises to raise funds for Abbeystead School.

Signed.....

Ideas: