



# Abingdon Primary School

Abingdon Road  
Reddish  
Stockport  
SK5 7ET  
Telephone: 0161 480 4531

Headteacher: Mrs S Spendlow

Email: [admin@abingdon.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abingdon.stockport.sch.uk)

## Newsletter Friday 9th February 2024

### Dates for your diary:

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February - Chinese New Year celebrations in classes  
- Finish for half term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – back to school

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – DEAR for parents 8.50 – 9.10



**SAVE the DATE**

**Safer Internet Day**

**2024** | Tuesday  
6 February

[www.saferinternetday.org](http://www.saferinternetday.org)



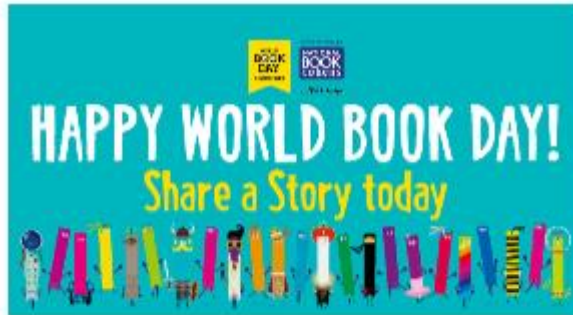
Dear All,

Here we are at the end of another half-term! Although only 5 weeks, it has been very busy, with visits from the fire service, and visits to Reddish Vale High School and Avondale Leisure Centre. The children continued to represent our school tremendously and we are so proud of them.

Firstly, I must share a bit of sad news with you ...Monday was Mrs Whitehead's last day in school. She has decided that now is her opportunity to try something new and she starts work with Manchester Hospital Schools (supporting children who are very poorly in hospital) after half term. Mrs Whitehead has been with us for over 9 years and has been such a big part of our Abingdon Family. We will miss her so much, but we wish her the very best in her new job. We know she will smash it! Ms Flanders will be taking over Owls on Mondays and Tuesdays after half term.

**There are lots of bugs going around at the moment. Please read the attached letter regarding scarlett fever and Group A streptococcus from the local authority.**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March is annual World Book Day. We have 3 events (see below) on the day that the children can take part in – They can decorate a potato at home as their favourite book character and bring it in (Prizes for the best in each key stage; They can dress up as their favourite character on the day as usual; and all the children will be meeting an author on the day too (see attached information and order form)



### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

As world book day is fast approaching, we wanted to let you know what will be happening.

- 1) Decorate a potato as your favourite book character. There will be a prize for the best entry in each Key Stage.



- 2) There will be an author visit from Ben Andrews. He is a disability rights activist and has been on Granada Reports. He will be coming in talk to all the children about his book, Better Places.



He will also be doing book signings on the day.  
Please return the attached pre-order form and money to school if you would like to buy a copy.

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- 3) All children, and teachers, are also very welcome to come into school dressed as their favourite book character. They can also bring in one of their favourite books from home to talk about.



## Wellbeing Challenge

This week was Children's Mental Health Week, the theme this year was 'My Voice Matters'. On the 'Children's Mental Health Week' website you can find some lovely activities for families to do together to talk about what matters to them.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/what-matters-to-you-activity-for-4-11-year-olds/>

Above is a link to a lovely art activity that would be nice to do together at home – it doesn't need a lot of preparation or equipment; it is more the talk around it that matters – and everyone can get involved!

**DO YOU SOMETIMES WORRY ABOUT HOW YOU ARE FEELING?** If so, read on!

Here are some brilliant tips from children just like you\*. These children have also had ups and downs with their mental health and want to pass on some ideas that have helped them:

- Ask for help – from a teacher, parent, brother, sister, or other family member. Keep telling until someone listens to you.
- Remember you are not alone – everyone goes through tough times. Be kind to yourself – everyone is perfect in their own way.
- Stay calm – take some breaths or find somewhere to sit quietly for 2 minutes.
- Go outside and get some exercise to make yourself feel stronger.
- Spend time with your family and friends (or pets).
- It's okay to not always be okay.
- Think of your favourite thing and write it down.
- Keep a diary to track all your emotions.
- Stay positive and focus on things that make you happy. If you can't think of anything, maybe a friend can help you.
- Remember you are enough, and you are the only you.
- If you are being bullied, maybe the bully is being bullied or has something going on at home and they're taking it out on someone else. Tell an adult or trusted friend.

**DO YOU SOMETIMES FEEL A BIT WORRIED ABOUT HOW SOMEONE ELSE IS FEELING?** If so, read on!

Things you can say to help support someone else:

- Do you want to be my friend?
- Do you want to play?
- I'm here for you.
- Shall we tell an adult?
- You're a star!
- Would you like me to find your friends?

\*With thanks to the pupils at Seascope Primary School and Ark Globe Primary School.

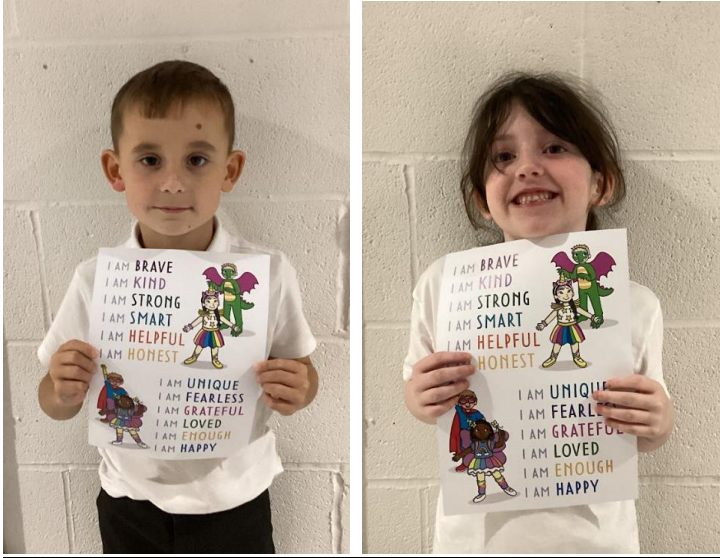
**BEANO** CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Beano Characters: A Beano Studios Product ©DC Thomson Ltd (2023)



**Children's Mental Health Week**

We have celebrated Children's mental Health week this year. The week started with an assembly to introduce it and then the children have looked at the different ways to wellbeing. The theme was 'My Voice Matters' and the key theme in school linked to that was talking to trusted adults if you have a worry.



**Safer Internet day**

It was also safer internet day this week. All across school the children have all looked at how to stay safe online at the age appropriate level for them.



## Lunar New Year

Chinese New Year this year falls on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February and welcomes in the year of the Dragon. This week the children have been making their own Chinese lanterns to celebrate the Lantern Festival. On Sunday (February 11th) a packed programme of events will take place to celebrate the Year of the Dragon in Manchester's Chinatown including arts and crafts, a fun fair and a food market.



## Year 5 Art Project

UKS2 have been showing their fabulous fashion skills this week creating their own tie dye t shirts. The children designed and created their own patterns using dye and elastic bands, then they proudly modelled their creations in school.



### **Fire Fighter visit**

We had our second visit from our local fire service this week, visiting our Y6 children. The children learned about fire safety in the home, and how to keep safe in the community, and at home. If your house does not have a smoke alarm, the local fire service will provide and fit them for you for free!



### **Contacting staff**

Please remember your first portal of call is your class teacher. 😊 KS1/Reception staff are always on their classroom doors to meet and greet. KS2 staff are always available at the end of the day. Class Dojos are picked up by teachers during 'office hours' and they do endeavour to reply as timely as possible.



**ClassDojo**

### **NumBots and Time Table RockStars**



There are two brilliant apps, which school purchase each year. – Numbots and TTRS. Both can be used at home and we would love them to be used more! Numbots is for our KS1 children (Reception will get a log in in the Spring term) and is a great way to practise fluency of numbers. Times Table Rockstars is a great way for Y2 onwards to practise their times tables. All the children should have logins – the login is the same for both apps. Even just 10 minutes a day on an app like this can really boost children’s confidence, number recognition and fluency with numbers – and although it is screen time, you know they are doing something worthwhile and educational.

### **Dogs on School Property**

We would like to remind all parents and carers that dogs are not allowed on school premises. This includes dogs on leads, dogs being carried, or even in a buggy. Thank you for your support in this matter

### **Breakfast Club Timings**

Just a reminder that breakfast club does not open until 07.45am. We are beginning to see children arriving earlier than this. The staff are not responsible for the children until 07.45am, therefore the children are not supervised before this time and are still the responsibility of parents.

### **Parking**

Reddish Vale Start Well Nursery next door have politely asked us to remind parents about not parking in their car park. The car park attached to the nursery is for their employees and visitors, and on occasions, there are no parking spaces for them at critical times. They will be closing and locking their gates between 8.30 and 9.00 am and 2.30 and 3.20 pm.

### **Jumpers**

We are seeing a bit of an increase in hoodies and other non-uniform jumpers, particularly on PE days. Please refer to the uniform list below. Teachers will offer spare uniform jumpers to children who come wearing different jumpers. Please also put your child’s name on their jumper, we have another big pile of unnamed jumpers forming- which will be disposed of at the end of the term.

### **Snacks**

Our local authority advisors tell us that there is a huge increase in dental decay and obesity in children in our area and as a community we should all work together to tackle it.

### **Here is our plan for a healthier day at school:**

In the morning, the children have bagels – these are from the National Schools breakfast programme and are nutritionally balanced. They are served with a small amount of margarine.

At snack time, the children are able to bring a *normal sized* snack if they wish, but please ensure that it is fruit, or low sugar snack. Examples might be food like – cheddars, sreen, raisins, crackers etc (crisps, sweets, chocolate will not be allowed)

At lunch time Taylor Shaw provide us with nutritionally balanced low sugar hot meals, if you are bringing a packed lunch please look at the sugar content and the amount of food within the lunchbox.

Afternoons – KS1/Rec children have free fruit (national scheme)

### **Water should be in all bottles.**

We will sometimes have rewards that are food/sweets – however, these are very occasional, which models the idea of everything in moderation.

Some children bring in sweets for their birthday - this is not an expectation, but if you choose do to we ask parents to only do this on a Friday. Their birthday will still be celebrated in the class on the day of the birthday of course - as all children’s birthdays are.

**Please also remember that we are a nut free school – no nuts or nut products should be brought in as snacks/lunch including snacks like peanut butter.**



As a school, many of us are parents ourselves and understand the frustrations around snacks. However, we want the best for the children in the school and eating healthily supports this.

### **Free School Meals**

A reminder that families can apply for Free School Meals via this link: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals/apply-school-grants-free-school-meals> - all you need is your NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER. If your child has just gone into year 3 they will no longer be on Universal Free School Meals, so if you think you might qualify please apply as soon as possible.

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, it is beneficial to apply for Free School Meals as your child can also access a range of other benefits and school help supplement some additional provision for you and your child(ren).

If you would prefer to apply using a school computer/internet, that is no problem and we can arrange a private area with a computer for you to apply. Just ask at the office, call 0161 480 4531 or email [admin@abingdon.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abingdon.stockport.sch.uk).

### **School Uniform**

We have a lot of lost property – mainly jumpers with no names in. Please make sure **names are in all items of clothes** – especially cardigans/jumpers and coats! It is impossible to find lost items without this.

White polo shirt  
Red cardigan/jumper – with or without logo (**NO other jumpers**)  
Black/dark grey trousers/shorts/skirts/pinafores  
Black shoes or all black trainers (no colour variations accepted)

#### **PE Kits for PE days**

White t-shirt and black shorts/joggers with school jumper. (**NO other jumpers/PE kits!**)

### **School Lottery**

For those families new to school, we have a school lottery that is run by the website below. Every ticket sold provides much needed funding for our school.

If you would like to take part please do sign up using the link below. Thank you.

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/>

Last week, one of our parents won £6.00!

Our **first Super Draw of '24** is just around the corner, and guess what? This weekend one of our supporters could be the lucky winner of a **£1,000 luxury holiday!**

But hold on, we get it – everyone's got their own idea of the perfect getaway. So, we're spicing things up a bit. If travelling isn't your cup of tea, no worries! The winner can also opt for a **£1,000 cash alternative**. Yep, we're all about making dreams come true, your way.



A cabin in the Lakes, a luxury spa break, a West-End musical weekend, or jump on the Eurostar for a European escape: the choice is yours – so make 2024 the start of your next great adventure!

### How the lottery works

#### £1 per ticket



That's right, unlike many other lotteries, our lottery tickets are only £1 per week.

#### Help us do more

For every ticket you play, 76% goes to our school and prizes.



#### £25,000 grand prize



Match all 6 numbers and you win the JACKPOT!



### Attendance:



★ The class with the highest overall attendance each week will have the opportunity to 'spin the wheel'! The wheel has lots of different choices on – some of these have been updated this year by the children.

★ Each class who achieves 97% or higher each week, or who show great improvement, will have an extra playtime the following week.

**Attendance monitoring includes broken weeks and lateness. You MUST contact school if your child is late or absent.**

The class with the highest attendance this week was: **Y6 Ospreys with 96.4%**. They have won 'a Pyjama day in class! The class teacher will let you know what day it will be on.

Both Reception Otters and Y5 Kestrels had over 97% attendance this week, and both classes have earned extra play!

### Hot chocolate

Each week we invite a child from each class (who is chosen for being a role model for behaviour) to come and have hot chocolate and marshmallows with the headteacher. We could not have it this week, but it will resume after half term!!



### Gold Table

Children are chosen by their midday supervisors for their lunchtime behaviour. Each Friday we have a 'Gold table' in the hall where the children have their lunch, they also receive a prize from the 'Gold Box'.  
Otters – Edith, Badgers – Saandriya, Hedgehogs – Freddie, Squirrels – Hasnain, Foxes – Hunter-Cole, Falcons – Olivia B, Kites – Nyla, Owls – Evie-Rose, Kestrels -Lucas, Merlins – Paige, Hawks – Ayana, Ospreys – Edward

### **Class Stars of the Week**

Each week children are chosen for showing our core values. On the final week each half term the children vote and award the certificates themselves in our Children's Assembly. Well done to all our stars of the half term:



Reception Badgers: Alisya  
Reception Otters: Theo  
Year 1 Hedgehogs: Theo D  
Year 1/2 Squirrels: Stefan  
Year 2 Foxes: Gabriel  
Year 3 Falcons: Lily W

Year 3/4 Kites: Roman  
Year 4 Owls: Jessica  
Year 5 Kestrels: Jack  
Year 5 Merlins: Isaac  
Year 6 Ospreys: Olivia  
Year 6 Hawks: Abigail

### **Golden Broom**

Y4 Owls won the Golden Broom this week for having the tidiest classroom. Well done for setting a fantastic example to others.

The Golden Broom is awarded by Mr Bosson (Site supervisor) .



Finally, I hope you have a lovely restful half-term break.

Ms Spendlow  
Headteacher

# Holiday Dates 2023-2024

## Autumn term

Monday 4th September	INSET
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	INSET
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Back to School
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Finish for half term holiday
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	School returns
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Finish for Christmas

## Spring term

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	INSET
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	School returns
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Finish for half term holiday
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	School returns
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Finish for Easter

## Summer term

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	School returns
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Holiday
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Finish for Whit holiday
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	School returns
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Finish for summer holidays
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> July	INSET
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	INSET

### **Covid-19 advice**

- Children with mild symptoms of a respiratory infection include covid-19 but are otherwise well should continue to attend school. They should stay home if they have a high temperature and are unwell, and can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature/feel well enough.
- It is not recommended that children should have a covid-19 test unless directed to by a health professional, but if a child under 18 does test positive, **they should stay off school for 3 days after the day they took the test. They can return to school after the 3 days if they are well enough.**

The isolation period for COVID-19 is 6 days with a negative LFD test (24 hours apart on day 5 and day 6). See the link below for more information

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

### **School advice is still:**

If your child is displaying any of these COVID related symptoms

-a high temperature

-a new, continuous cough

-a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

or

if your child receives a positive lateral flow test, **they should remain at home until they are feeling well again.**

**Please inform school if anyone in your child's household tests positive for Covid-19.**