Abbotskerswell Primary School

Slade Lane, Abbotskerswell, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 5NS

Tel: (01626) 353605 Email: admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

Firstly, we would like to wish you a very warm welcome to the new school year. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back after the summer break, and we are delighted to see how quickly they have settled into their routines and embraced their learning with such enthusiasm and energy.

This half term, our Humanities topic is Geography-based and called **"Where Am I?"** After the half-term break, we will begin our History unit, **"What is History?"** You will find our curriculum plans for the term at the bottom of this letter. If you have any questions about the topics or your child's learning, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We will also be holding a **Curriculum Meeting next Wednesday, 16th September at 9am in the classroom**. This will be an opportunity to introduce ourselves and share our plans for the term.

Our teaching team remains the same this term:

- **Ms Pearson** will teach on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- **Mrs Kennan** will teach from Wednesday to Friday.

Please take a moment to read this letter carefully, as it outlines some of the routines and procedures we follow in Robins Class.

Key Dates for the Diary:

- Harvest Festival - Wednesday 21st October at 9.40am
- Nativity Assembly - Monday 7th December at 2.30pm and Tuesday 8th December at 9.15am.

Snack Time, School Dinners & Water Bottles

To keep the children fuelled during the busy morning, every child in Robins class receives a free piece of fruit at playtime. As we cannot choose which fruit is delivered, you may prefer to send your child in with a healthy snack from home that you know they will enjoy. We find that a mid-morning snack helps children maintain focus and concentration, particularly with lunch now at 12.30pm. Please ensure all snack tubs are clearly labelled.

School dinners remain free for all children in Robins class but must be pre-ordered in advance. Orders cannot be changed or made on the day, so please choose meals with your child to ensure they are happy with their selection. If your child brings a packed lunch, please remember that we are a nut-free school. This includes nut products and hazelnut spreads such as Nutella.

Finally, please ensure your child brings a clearly named water bottle to school each day. Bottles are kept in the classroom so children can access them independently throughout the day.

PE & Clothing

Robins will have PE on a Monday afternoon with Ms Pearson and Thursday afternoon with a PE coach from Primary Sports. Children will come home in their kit on a Monday afternoon, and we ask that they bring it back into school ready for the lesson on Thursday afternoon.

Please remember to clearly label all of your child's clothing with their name. We know how expensive school uniform can be, and named items are much easier for us to find and return if they go missing.

Children enjoy playing outside in all weathers (apart from heavy rain), so please make sure they have suitable clothing for each season, including a coat, hat and scarf when needed. When it is cold, children will need a coat to use the outside area. Please remember to label these items too!

We are unable to accommodate bags larger than a book bag, so please leave rucksacks at home. Thank you for your support!

Rewards

The children earn 'house-points' (ClassDojo points) recorded on our online system 'Class Dojo'. Each week the child from each year group with the most house points with be rewarded with a special sticker and certificate. We will also be using Class Dojo as a platform to share photos and videos of our learning on the class story.
In class we have table groups, and the children work with their peers to become 'Table of the Day' - they gather points for being the first table ready, tidied or quietest sat. We also have a class Star of the Day award, and all the children can work towards achieving this for showing off and shining with their behaviour, kindness and learning.

Communication

We really value strong communication between home and school—it's an essential part of supporting your child's learning. If you ever have a question or concern, please don't hesitate to get in touch rather than worrying at home. We're here to help!

One of our team will be outside each morning, and you can pass on messages then, which will be relayed to us. You're also welcome to speak to us at the end of the day. For quick questions, ClassDojo is a great option, but please understand that we may not reply immediately, especially outside working hours. Sometimes we may suggest discussing a matter in person rather than by message to ensure clarity.
You can also contact the school office to leave a message for us. For anything that needs more time or detail, we're happy to arrange a meeting after school. Thank you for working with us to keep communication open and positive!

Home Learning

The most important homework for your child is regular reading with an adult—even after they become a 'free reader'. This shared reading time helps develop fluency, comprehension, and a love of books.

Year 1 children will bring home their reading book every Tuesday and should return it the following Tuesday. We use the *Little Wandle Phonics* reading system for all Year 1 pupils and for Year 2 pupils during the first term. After this, Year 2 children move on to banded reading books.

During their time in Robins, children will become familiar with platforms such as *Numbots*. We will share login details when these are ready so they can be used effectively. Occasionally, homework may be set using these platforms, and we will inform you via Class Dojo.

Homework Tips
Little and often is best. Please avoid trying to complete everything in one evening or spending too long on a single task. Spread activities across the week so they fit into family life. Children who repeatedly do not complete home learning tasks may be asked to finish them during school hours.
Thank you for your support in helping your child develop positive learning habits.

Should you have any problems or questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch either by emailing admin@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk which will then forward messages on to us or by passing a message to the Robins Class staff member in the morning.

Ms Pearson, Mrs Keenan and the Robin Class Team

<table>
<tr><td> </td><td colspan="2">Abbotskerswell Primary School | Year 1 & 2 | Robins Class Planning</td><td> </td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Main Theme</td><td>Autumn Term</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Geography and History</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Geography (Autumn 1): Where Am I?

Key Outcome: Pupils will learn about the four countries of the UK and develop their map skills. They will explore the school grounds using maps, aerial photographs, symbols and directional language, while considering how different places make them feel.

History (Autumn 2): What is History?

Key Outcome: Pupils will explore their own memories and create simple timelines. They will learn about holidays in the past, using photographs and time vocabulary to identify similarities and differences between holidays then and now.</td><td colspan="2">Art :
Drawing-tone and texture
Key Outcome:
Pupils will explore how artists use tone and texture, and apply these techniques in observational drawings.

Design and Design

Mechanisms Wheels and Axles

Key Outcome:

Pupils will develop an understanding of how wheels, axles and axle holders work while practising cutting straight and curved shapes with scissors.</td></tr>
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Science
Autumn Term 1: Everyday Materials - Distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made - Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and roc - Describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials - Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties

English | Writing	Maths
Unit 1 Fiction: Dear Mother Goose Grammar: Simple sentence and a question. Outcome: Write a letter asking how to solve a problem. **Unit 2 Non-Fiction Knights** Grammar: Sentence types and simple tense Outcome: To write an information text about a role/job. **Unit 3 Fiction: How to Catch a Santa** Grammar: Conjunctions and verbs. Outcomes: To write a set of instructions about catching something related to Christmas.	1. Place Value 2. Addition & Subtraction 3. Geometry (Year 1) Shape (Year 2)

Physical Education (PE) Primary Sports Coach	Religious Education (RE) with Mrs Keenan	Computing with Ms Pearson	Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) with Mrs Keenan	Music with Ms Pearson
Autumn 1: Multi-skills and dance Autumn 2: Multi-skills and gymnastics	Autumn 2 What does it mean to belong to a faith or belief community?	Computing Systems: Using Computers 1 Programming 1: Commands unplugged	Autumn 1 Being me in my world	Autumn 1: My musical heartbeat Autumn 2: Let's Start Singing - links with Christmas assembly