

January Newsletter

Happy New Year to Everyone

Welcome to 2019! I really hope that it is going to be even *more* successful than 2018. It has been great seeing the children again and hearing all the exciting stories that they have had to share with us about the holidays. It has also been wonderful to see the children engaging with all the adults in school so quickly during lessons and really taking ownership of what they are learning about. This half-term, we will be talking in assemblies about the importance of effort and the children always trying their best, regardless of the challenges that they may face. Encouraging positive attitudes helps in all aspects of school life as it gives the children an open mind to problems rather than closed minds that can create the old problem of 'I can't do it'.

2019/2020 Calendar and Training Days

	August 2019					September 2019					October 2019					November 2019					
Mon	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
Tues	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	
Weds	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	
Thurs	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	
Fri	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	
	December 2019					January 2020					February 2020					March 2020					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		2	9	16	23	30	
Tues	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		3	10	17	24	31	
Weds	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		4	11	18	25	
Thurs	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		6	13	21	27	
	April 2020					May 2020					June 2020					July 2020					
Mon		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29			6	13	20	
Tue		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30			7	14	21	
Weds	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24			1	8	15	22	
Thurs	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25			2	9	16	23	
Fri	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26			3	10	17	24
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS					BANK HOLIDAYS					TRAINING DAYS - 5 days TBC											

Uniform Reminder

Please can you ensure that your child has the correct uniform on each day and also brings the correct PE kit with them. This is very important, particularly for health reasons – with the children getting hot during PE sessions they need to have a change of clothes in school. The correct PE uniform is a white t-shirt and dark shorts. Football tops are not permitted. Also ALL Y2 and KS2 children should have indoor pumps to wear to try and keep the floors in the classrooms as clean as possible.

FAB – The Next Steps

Many thanks to everyone who came to support the FAB Coffee Morning last Friday. We have generated some new ideas, which will hopefully help us raise even more funds for school. All the funds raised by FAB go towards providing items and activities that all children benefit from. We are still deciding what the profits from the Christmas Fair will go towards, so if anyone has any great ideas we would love to hear them.

Even though we had some new faces at the meeting on Friday, we still need new parents to come and help and support all the work that is put into organising the fundraising events. We meet every other Friday in school from 9:00am and would really love it if you could come and support – the next meeting is on 1st

February. Babies and toddlers are more than welcome and there is a free supply of tea, coffee and biscuits. It is also a really good way to come and make some new friends.

Open Door Policy

Just a quick reminder to let you know that if anyone has any worries, issues or concerns regarding school, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. We will always endeavour to work with people to solve whatever the concerns may be.

14 Reasons Why Homework is Important

I hope that everyone has been enjoying their homework – we are very grateful for everyone completing it and sending it back at the agreed times. Homework is incredibly important because it:

- improves your child's thinking and memory
- helps your child develop positive study skills and habits that will serve them well throughout life
- encourages your child to use time wisely
- teaches your child to work independently
- teaches your child to take responsibility for their own work
- allows your child to review and practice what has been covered in class
- helps your child learn to use resources, such as libraries, books and websites to find information
- encourages your child to explore subjects more fully than classroom time will sometimes allow
- allows your child to extend learning by applying skills to new situations
- helps your child consolidate learning by applying many different skills to a single task
- helps you learn more about what they are learning in school
- allows you to communicate about what they are learning
- encourages you as parents to spark your child's enthusiasm for learning
- is fun

Celebration of Success

Every day at school we celebrate the success of the children through the giving of Right Choice tickets, stamps and verbal praise (to name but a few!). The children achieve these things by making really good choices and following the Allerton Bywater Code. I give out many certificates for the children making hundreds of good choices and I can't wait to present my first gold certificate, which I am sure won't be long. We value your support in helping us to get the children to make good choices at school. When they do they are happier, make better progress in their learning and achieve more rewards.

A Healthy Start to the Year

It is really important that the children are kept at home if poorly but they must be in school if well enough. Sometimes sending them to school is the best option and we can send them home if they are really too poorly to be in school. As our motto says, 'Learning Matters, Make Every Day Count'.

We are also encouraging the children who have a school dinner to eat all of it rather than throwing some of it away. We would be very grateful if you could remind your child at home about the importance of eating, especially the fruit and vegetables that they are given. If you are providing a packed lunch at lunch time for your child can you please ensure it is as healthy as possible e.g. lots of fruit, less biscuits and buns, wholemeal bread instead of white bread and ensuring drinks are either water or pure fruit juice.

Helping your child with phonics

Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents play a very important part in helping with this. Here are some simple steps to support your child in reading using phonics:

- Teaching how sounds match with letters is likely to start with individual letters such as 's', 'a' and 't' and then will move on to '2-letter sounds' such as 'ee', 'ch' and 'ck'.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right as well as looking at the pictures to guess. Once a child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help your child to follow the story.

- We will also be able to suggest books with the right level of phonics for your child. These books are often called 'decodable readers' because the story is written with words made up of the letters your child has learnt. Your child will be able to work out new words from their letters and sounds, rather than just guessing.
- Try to make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brothers or sisters can help, too. Encourage your child to blend the sounds all the way through a word.
- Word games, like 'I-spy', can also be an enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters. You can also encourage your child to read words from your shopping list or road signs to practise their phonics.
- At school we use planners, which are a great way for teachers and parents to communicate about what children have read.

A Note from the Head

Belated Happy New Year – I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday. Coming back in January when it is cold, wet and dark can sometimes be disheartening, however this isn't the case at school as this is the term when the children really start to race ahead with their learning. The buzz and enthusiasm from children and staff around school since we came back has been amazing and has been fabulous to see – I'm sure the learning opportunities coming up will continue to keep the children enthused.

I know that the negative press that school received before the holidays is not a true reflection of the learning that goes on every day at ABPS and I am grateful for everyone's continued support. The school has never looked so amazing.

Each year schools prioritise areas of development for staff to work on and as I have mentioned in previous newsletters, at ABPS these areas are:

- To further develop children's reading skills, both at ABPS and across the academy
- To review and further develop the teaching of Maths
- To implement a new online assessment tracking tool
- To improve our outcomes at Key Stage 2
- To implement our newly designed curriculum topics
- To further develop science provision in school, which is shared work across the academy

Each of these areas of development is normally led by a key member of staff, or a small group of staff, who provide training and development for the rest of the team. They may also review policies and implement new procedures and are responsible for monitoring the impact of the new procedures.

So far this year we there have been significant changes to the teaching of Maths, Reading and the new topics that we introduced in September. We will keep you posted on how things progress as the year continues.

If there is anything in this newsletter that you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact school.

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