

Dear Parents and Carers,

8th November 2017

Welcome back to the second part of the Autumn Term; often the busiest half term as we lead up to Christmas.

Clothing: Please can you check that your children's pumps are in good condition and replace them if they are worn out or too small. Please also ensure that their PE kit is in school at all times. This has improved, but we still have some children without kit. If you need help with buying school uniform, please contact school as we can help in some instances.

Outdoor Learning: This has been a huge success and children have enjoyed their learning with Mrs. Taylor (and Oscar) enormously. This half term, Y2 (Opal) and Y4 (Garnet) will be having Outdoor Learning. Please send in an old coat and trousers and wellies to school on Thursdays ready for these lessons. We do have some spare wellies but bringing your own would be helpful. Children go outside in all weathers.

Parent Governor: Our Governing Body is small but effective. In order to make it more effective, we would like to appoint a parent governor. We meet once a half term for about 2 hours. If you are interested in this position please contact the school office.

Clubs: Clubs are continuing this half term the same as last half term apart from Cooking Club where the group will be changing to the reserve list and you will receive a text if your child has a place. If your child is desperate to do a club and they weren't chosen for it last half term, please contact the school office. In addition to the current clubs, we are also re-starting Gardening Club for Y2 and above. We need keen gardeners and children who can take care of plants in school to attend this club. They will also be responsible for decorating and caring for the academy's Christmas Tree. If your child is interested, this club will start tomorrow. **Please complete the reply slip below if your child would like to join.**

Attendance: As you know, this is hugely important for our academy as it is crucial your children are in school every day. The week before half term, our attendance was 92%, which was a 4% fall on the same week last year. We know a sickness bug affected our figures and that genuine illness cannot be helped. However, there were a lot of children who were absent from school due to holidays. With this tagged onto half term, some children have missed a whole month of school since September. From now on, all holidays will be unauthorised and a fine may be issued, unless your circumstances fall into those allowed by the government. These include families of those in the armed forces; the death of a close family member or where absence is recommended by a health professional. Any other exceptional or unforeseen circumstance could be considered after discussion with the Educational Welfare Officer.

I really appreciate your help and support. Together we can continue to make our academy a successful place of learning and emotional well-being.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. E Ford  
Principal

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### Reply Slip

I would like my child to attend gardening club on Thursdays at 3:00pm-4:00pm. I understand that school will confirm my child's place with a phone call.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

At Abbey Park Primary Academy, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all members of the school community to share this commitment. Our school actively promotes fundamental British values. This commitment includes staff, governors, volunteers and contractors working on the school site.

We have a number of policies and procedures in place that contribute to our safeguarding commitment and these can be found on our website.

Sometimes we need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about pupils are discussed with parents/carers first, unless we have reason to believe that this would be contrary to the child's welfare.

We actively support the Government's Prevent Agenda to counter radicalisation and extremism.

Our Safeguarding Leads are;

- Mrs Ford (Principal)
- Mrs Kermotschuk (Vice Principal)
- Miss Priestley (Pastoral Support)

They are the lead people in our school and the people to contact if you have concerns about a child.

