



## Attendance

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## Welcome Back

Welcome back to a brand new school year here at Abbey Mead! It has been wonderful to see children back over the past couple of days and hear the classrooms and corridors filled with laughter and chatter once more.

The return to school brings new hope and excitement for the school year ahead. Our children have looked incredibly smart in their school uniforms this week and have been ready to learn with a positive attitude; showing incredible resilience and readiness—a credit to their families!

We hope you are looking forward to lots of new and exciting things to come and are just as enthusiastic as us for what this academic year has in store. As usual, we look forward to working together and encourage home school links as a positive learning platform for your children. Please do not hesitate to speak to us in the mornings on the gates or come in to school if you need support or have any queries.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to welcoming all parents into school for an introductory session to your child's year group. The introductory sessions will take place on:

Foundation Stage 2— Tuesday 17th September @2.45 pm

Year 1— Monday 16th September @ 2.45 pm

Year 2— Wednesday 18th September @ 2.45 pm

Year 3— Monday 9th September @ 2.45 pm

Year 4— Wednesday 11th September @ 2.45 pm

Year 5— Tuesday 10th September @ 2.45 pm

Year 6— Thursday 12th September @ 2.45 pm

## Head of School

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to you all, I am Mrs Becky Pickard, the new Head of School for Abbey Mead. I have been given the privileged position to work alongside Mr Aldred whilst he continues to work across our family of Mead Schools. I have felt very welcomed by Abbey's community and have been amazed at how quickly the children have settled in; their behaviour and attitude to learning has been exemplary.



Please do feel free to come and say hello to me at the beginning or end of the school day.



## School Dinners

Our daily menu will be available to view on Bromcom so please make sure you have registered for this. All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to free school dinners as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals. This will save parents £10 per week if your child has lunches at school. This also applies for families who receive pupil premium funding.

If you would like to apply or to find out more about free school meals/  
Pupil Premium, please call the school office  
0116 266 1809

We are aware that last year, due to supply issues, daily menus had to change due to a lack of ingredients. We have discussed this with our caterers and are hopeful menu changes will be minimal!

## Piano Lessons

This year, we will be continuing to offer music sessions to our children through All for Music Leicester Hub. Our piano teacher visits the school weekly to deliver sessions to the children. The sessions are charged at £13.50 per 20-minute lesson - 32 lessons will be given over the course of the year and total cost would be £432.00

*If your child qualifies for pupil premium, the school will subsidise this to £11.00 per session - 32 lessons will be given over the course of the year and total cost would be £352.00.*

If you would like your child to take part or would like more information, please contact the school office by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September to register.

## School Communication

Our electronic communication has grown significantly with our parents. We will continue to use a range of methods to ensure we get information out to parents as quickly as possible. In order to ensure information is accessible, we will continue to send updates to parents through our Twitter account (if you are unaware, Twitter has now changed to the name X) (@AbbeyMead\_TMET) and through our Bromcom app.

If you have not yet registered for Bromcom, please email [office@abbey-tmet.uk](mailto:office@abbey-tmet.uk) for a registration code. We regularly send messages and upload photos of what children have been doing in school, so don't miss out!

All our new families will be sent an email to invite them to register for Bromcom and MCAS over the coming days.





## Upcoming Dates

- Year Group Curriculum letters sent home— **Friday 13th September**
- Jeans for Genes Day (£1 donation for charity)—**Friday 20th September**
- Navratri begins—**3rd October**
- Parents' Evenings Discussions—**Tuesday 15th October & Wednesday 16th October**—Further details will be sent home in the coming weeks
- School closes for half-term break - **Thursday 17th October**
- School closed for INSET Day—**Friday 18th October**
- School opens for Autumn term—**Monday 28th October**

## Drop off and collection arrangements

We would like to remind our parents to be courteous and attentive when parking cars and dropping off at the beginning and end of each day. To assist with reducing congestion, we have retained the use of our Loughborough Road entrance for the drop off and collection of Year 5 and 6 pupils.

We ask that parents follow parking restrictions in the area and avoid blocking access to driveways.

We ask that Year 5 and 6 parents arrive at the correct times in our Loughborough Road entrance so to allow sufficient parking and collection space. Year 5 parents should arrive in time to collect their children at 3:20 pm; with Year 6 parents arriving at 3:30 pm. We ask that Year 6 parents do not arrive at 3:20 pm in cars as this then reduces spaces for Year 5 parents and causes additional congestion.

To also assist with reducing congestion and promoting the safe collection of children on Bruin Street, we ask that parents wait patiently at the gates. Year 3 children are released at 3:20 pm and Year 4 children at 3:30 pm. We ask that parents arrive in time to collect their children and avoid arriving early in order to assist with the safe dismissal of children.

Our crossing patrol is present daily on Ross Walk to further support children and families in crossing the road safely.

We thank you for your continued support with keeping collection and drop offs as calm and safe as possible. Staff are present daily to answer any questions that you might have.

Be sure to pop along to say hello on the gates.





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Regular attendance at school supports children in both their learning and character development. Children must attend school each day to make the most of their educational experiences.

Sadly, holidays during term time continue to impact the learning and progress of a number of pupils. We ask that all absence is reported to the school office each morning so to ensure children are safe and their location is known. Where the school have concerns regarding a pupil's absence, home visits are carried out to ensure that children are safe and present at the home address.

### Holidays abroad

We remind parents that any holidays should be arranged and taken outside of school time. There are 13 weeks of holiday a year where parents can travel abroad. We must put our children's education first!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence that occur after 19th August 2024.

- Any absence during term time is highly likely to receive a fixed penalty notice. The penalty notice will be issued at the cost of **£160 per parent per child (discounted to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days for the first offence) or your case will be referred to by the Local Authority directly to the Magistrates' Court.**
- The second time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be £160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days with no discount.
- *If your child has an absence of 20 days or more, the Local Authority has advised that a Penalty Notice is **unlikely** to be issued and the matter is likely to proceed to the Magistrates' Court for prosecution action instead. The Local Authority has advised that where a parent is found guilty, or where the case is proven against the parent, that this is likely to result in a fine (up to £2500) and the parent receiving a criminal record. This is because parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school where they are on roll regularly.*
- *Penalty notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days and for fewer days where this has happened before.*

Whilst we do not wish for any parent to be taken to court, we must ensure that our pupils attend school regularly so to gain the best quality education possible.

