



## Welcome Back

We are excited to welcome our children back for a fun filled and productive Spring term.

We have lots of exciting topics across the school for our children to further their knowledge and understanding.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to welcoming all parents into school for an introductory session to the new term. The introductory sessions will take place on:



Wednesday 15th January @ 2.45 pm—Year 3

Monday 20th January @ 2.45 pm—Year 6

Tuesday 21st January @ 2.45 pm—Year 5

Wednesday 22nd January @ 2.45 pm—Year 2

Thursday 23rd January @ 2.45 pm—Year 1

Thursday 30th January @ 2.45 pm—Year 4

Parents are invited to come from the main entrance on Ross Walk. Please arrive at 2.40 pm and we will direct you to the meeting area.

## Attendance

We are looking forward to a positive year ahead of good attendance here at Abbey Mead. 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.

Holidays during term time continue to impact the learning and progress of a number of pupils. As per our policy, holidays will continue to be declined. 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!

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, and if this is not paid within the allocated time frame your case will be referred by the Local Authority directly to the Magistrates' court.

### Attendance

*This week's attendance figures show that we have had another good week of attendance here at Abbey Mead. The table below shows attendance Monday to Thursday*

| Class      | Average(%) |
|------------|------------|
| 1AI        | 93.87      |
| 1PP        | 93.83      |
| 1SH        | 97.21      |
| 2EB        | 96.39      |
| 2NF        | 96.30      |
| 2SP        | 97.70      |
| 3AM        | 93.50      |
| 3IB        | 98.36      |
| 3SR        | 98.79      |
| 4CC        | 96.44      |
| 4KO        | 97.21      |
| 4KR        | 96.76      |
| 5CH/PS     | 95.24      |
| 5JH        | 97.15      |
| 5MB        | 98.52      |
| 6NK        | 91.54      |
| 6RT/RR     | 97.79      |
| 6ZE        | 95.94      |
| FLL        | 92.09      |
| FMC/AW     | 92.19      |
| FOL/SS     | 93.13      |
| The Meadow | 82.93      |

Well done to 2SP who are KS1 winners this week AND TO 3SR and 5MB who are our joint KS2 winners





## Makar Sankranti/ Pongal/Lohri

This is a special time of year for many of our families and we would like to wish all our families a very happy Makar Sankranti, Pongal and Lohri.

In different states of the nation, Makar Sankranti is celebrated by different names.

- Lohri: One day before Makar Sankranti, on thirteenth January, Lohri is celebrated in Haryana and Punjab. In the evening, people gather around the bonfire and throw puffed rice and popcorns into the flames of the huge fire. Prayers and wishes are made for happiness, health, growth and prosperity.



- Kite Festival: In Gujarat, the kite celebration is held on the wonderful occasion of Makar Sankranti.

- Festival of Donation "or" Khichdi ": In Uttar Pradesh, it is chiefly the celebration of gift and donation. The Magh fair, which takes place for one month on the conjunction of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati in Allahabad, begins from the day of Makar Sankranti itself. On this propitious day, individuals fast in Uttar Pradesh and offer khichdi.

- In Bengal, there is a custom of donating til after taking a dip in the Makar Sankrant.

- Pongal: On the colourful occasion of Makar Sankranti in Tamil Nadu, this celebration is praised as Pongal for four days.

- In Bihar, Makar Sankranti celebration is known as Khichdi. On this day, giving urad, rice, gold, woollen garments, have their own significance.

- In Maharashtra, all married ladies donate cotton, oil and salt to other suhagans (married woman) on their first Sankrant.

So, in India, Makar Sankranti celebration has its own significance. It is praised and celebrated in different states by various names.

Happy celebrating to all the families taking part in the festivals over the next few day.





## Upcoming Dates

| <b>Term No 3: 30 days (6 weeks)</b> |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Schools Open                        | <b>Monday 6 January 2025</b>                       |
| Schools Close                       | Friday 14 February 2025                            |
| Spring Half Term Holiday            | Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025 |

  

| <b>Term No 4: 35 days (7 weeks)</b> |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Schools Open                        | Monday 24 February 2025                      |
| Schools Close                       | Friday 11 April 2025                         |
| Easter Holidays                     | Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025 |

  

| <b>Term No 5: 19 days (3 weeks 4 days)</b> |  |
|--|--|
| Schools Open                               | Monday 28 April 2025                     |
| May Bank Holiday (schools closed)          | Monday 5 May 2025                        |
| Schools Close                              | Friday 23 May 2025                       |
| Summer Half Term Holiday                   | Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025 |

  

| <b>Term No 6: 30 days (6 weeks)</b> |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Schools Open                        | Monday 2 June 2025  |
| Schools Close                       | Friday 11 July 2025 |
| Summer Holiday begins               | Monday 14 July 2025 |

## Online Safety

### Cyberbullying

This is when someone uses the internet to bully someone else. The Cambridge dictionary defines cyberbullying as 'Someone who uses the internet to harm or frighten another person, especially by sending them unpleasant messages.'

### Best practices for parents and carers:

**Have an open conversation** – Listen and offer support and encouragement. If your child is a victim of cyberbullying, remind them that it is not their fault and that they do not deserve to be treated that way.

**Don't reply** - Most of the time the person doing the bullying is looking for a reaction when they are being mean online. Tell your child not to reply, instead they should tell a trusted adult what has happened. Instead save the evidence. This can be done by taking a screenshot of what has happened or by keeping the messages that your child has received.

**Don't deny access to technology** - Although it can be very tempting to remove a device from a young person if they are being bullied, having their device taken away may prevent them from speaking to you about worrying issues in the future.



## Abbey News @AbbeyMead\_TMET



**Miss Patel** @MissPatel\_AMPA · 12h

An absolutely incredible #science lesson with @MrsIkram\_AMPA this afternoon! We have been exploring and dissecting a seed to look at the different parts in detail. @AbbeyMead\_TMET Thank you for teaching us @MrsIkram\_AMPA we love you! 🥰



**Mrs Barratt** @MrsBarratt\_AMPA · 13h

To launch our new topic, #thegreatfireoflondon Year 2 travelled back in time to Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane where the fire began! 🍞 we baked 17th century bread which was delicious! @AbbeyMead\_TMET #AbbeyDT

