

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February.

Onside Coaching Holiday Clubs. Please call (01926) 496406 for further information.

Tuesday 23rd February

Scholarship Examination Day (Year 2)

Thursday 25th February

Years 4, 5, 6 Swimming Practice

Ski Trip Meeting (Y1 Classroom) 3.30pm

Friday 26th February

Year 5 visit to Barston Sewage Works.

Tuesday 30th March

Easter Service (2pm, Methodist Church)

Term will finish at 3.30pm on Wednesday 31st March.

CLUBS

There will be no Rugby Club on Thursday 25th February due to staff training.

KEEP UP TO DATE AT:

abbotsfordschool.co.uk/events

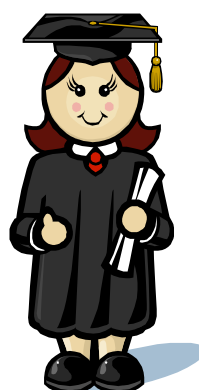
Abbotsford News

TERM 2 VOLUME 3

FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2010

Huge Academic Success for Year 6!

I am very pleased to announce that our Y6 children have enjoyed tremendous academic success this year in their common entrance and 11+ exams. This year, Warwick School, Bablake School and Princethorpe College have all made Scholarship Awards to pupils from Abbotsford School. Mr Halse, Head Master at Warwick School commented in his letter to me that despite “the current economic situation [he was] delighted that applications were still very high and there were no signs of a lower standard in the examinations...” This is indeed huge praise not only to the individual who was awarded a scholarship, but also to all other children awarded common entrance places in what is



clearly still a fiercely competitive market. I have also been very pleased to see our 11+ success at Solihull School. Two of our boys secured an offer of a place there and deserve great praise for their achievements.

In total, these four institutions made three Academic Scholarship offers, and fifteen

offers of places in total—a tremendous achievement and testament to Abbotsford School's ability not only to educate children to the highest of standards, but to ensure that we are recognized as producing children of outstanding academic ability.

My congratulations of course go to the children in Year 6, but also to Mrs McKenna, Mrs Parker and Mrs Edwards who work so tirelessly to ensure that the children are able to perform at the top of their ability. Without their expertise we would not be as successful as we are; I thank them sincerely for their hard work.

Dominic Cook
Headteacher

Swimming

Years 4, 5 and 6 will be having an 'extra' swimming lesson on the 25th February to practice for the KDPSA Swimming Gala that is coming up soon after. Please can parents ensure that their children come to school with their swimming kits!!

Reception, Year 1 and 2 will begin their swimming lessons the following week on Thursday 4th March.

I look forward to sharing news of our endeavours following the Gala on Thursday 4th March...

Absence Letters

To ensure we adequately meet all our safeguarding responsibilities I need to ask parents to **write a letter** explaining any pupil absence. Similarly, the school needs to be advised in writing of any hospital visits, doctor appointments, dentist visits etc prior to children leaving the school premises,

We still require parents to call the school as early as possible and advise us if you are keeping your child home for reasons of sickness etc. My apologies for this additional bureaucracy.

Brass Lessons

I am very pleased that a number of pupils have expressed an interest in learning a brass instrument, and am excited at the prospect of trumpeters and trombonists joining the orchestra sometime soon! Unfortunately, lessons will not be starting immediately after half-term as previously advertised—but I hope that they will commence either the second, or third week back. My apologies for this delay—again, bureaucracy is hindering us in getting things started!

Maths Week & Creative Arts Evening

As part of our provision to enrich the curriculum the children have been enjoying a week of practical maths and problem-solving challenges. We have been working in cross-key-stage groups and have given the children lots of exciting challenges and activities to participate in. As I write our Year 5s are on a bus trip they planned themselves using new skills acquired in reading and using timetables... Yesterday, Years 2 & 5 spent the morning at Warwick University working on a 'Towers of Hanoi' problem. Today, our Years 1 & 4s are working together

A great week of curriculum enrichment at Abbotsford School!

on estimating and weighing... It has been a great week and their has been lots of hands-on learning throughout the school.

Last night saw our Creative Arts Evening and it was very well attended by parents, friends and families. I particularly enjoy evenings such as this, as it clearly demonstrates how we build pupils' confidence and self-esteem. I am always hugely impressed with our

children's musical and dramatic talent, and last night was a thoroughly entertaining evening. It is testament to our children's tenacity that they find time to memorise and bring to life dramatic pieces, learn and sing songs so confidently, and perform musical pieces with such skill and flair. Well done to all the children; and also to those who play instruments and perform but were not present last night.

Many thanks to our peripatetic teachers, Mrs Parker and Mrs Preston for organising the event.

"Thank you all for donating towards UNICEF's appeal for the children of Haiti—Abbotsford School raised a final total of £422.33"

Abbotsford School Ski-ing Trip 2011

We are once again re-visiting the idea of running an Abbotsford School Ski Trip and we would like to hear from any interested parents. To this end, Mrs Marsden and I will be holding a meeting at 3.30pm on Thursday 25th February to discuss a possible trip, and gauge interest.

As some of you will know, there are many different options open to schools; trips can be in term time,



or the holidays, and they can be 'family' trips where parents come along, or solely for pupils and

accompanying staff. Interestingly, there are many great deals available now to get your children ski-ing or boarding. Trips invariably include five full days of tuition, all travel, accommodation and insurance costs, and all the necessary equipment hire...

Please come along to this information session and we will do our best to explore all the options open to us.

"The Nursery needs lids!! Please can you send in lids from jam jars, coffee jars etc for a new personal development project. Just lids—no Jars thank you!"

News in Brief

PTA News... By popular demand, we will be hosting a FAMILY NIGHT on Friday 5th March. There will be fun for all the family, including bingo, a fish 'n' chip supper, and a movie for the children. A booking form and more details will be sent home in bookbags soon—please make sure you book early to guarantee a place at this event for your whole family.

Alice in Wonderland... Please do take time to visit the Junior Department floors to view the amazing work that our Years 3,4,5 & 6 children have produced in their collaborative literacy project. Their studies have spilt over into art, drama and maths, and it has proved to be a wonderful learning experience for all the children— all based around classic children's literature.

Parent Survey... You will all have received a parent survey in your child's bookbag yesterday. I would be most grateful if you could find time over the half-term to complete this, and return it to me in the first week after the holiday. All questionnaires remain anonymous and by filling them in you will help improve our school. Many thanks for your time and assistance.

