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September 2023

Dear Abbey Woods Learners, Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope you had a great summer holiday and some well-deserved rest, relaxation and family time.

We are excited to welcome all children back tomorrow morning, but we are also aware that returning to school at the start of the school year can be an anxious time for some. All adults in school know this (even the adults get a bit nervous after a long break!) and will support the children through this time of change.

Here is everything you need to know about your child's return to school...

Start times:

We encourage all of our children to walk, scooter, or ride their bikes to school. If parents/carers need to drive, please be aware of the 'No Parking' lines located on the road outside the front gate. These lines are there to keep all students safe.

The school gates open at 8:40am each morning to allow learning to start promptly at 8:50am. Gates will be closed at 8:50am to ensure that all children can be registered on time.

This time of the day is an integral part of the school routine, where teachers are able to check in with each child. Arriving on time enables a smooth start to the school day. If children arrive after 8:50am, they should report to the school office.

Snacks:

All children in Nursery and Reception are provided with a fruit snack and milk each day, whilst children in Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a fruit snack each day.

Children in other year groups may bring a healthy snack to eat at break. This should be fruit or chopped vegetables, and not sugary cereal bars, pastries, crisps or biscuits.

Water bottles:

Children should bring a named water bottle to school. They should only have plain water or very diluted juice in their bottles. These should be taken home and washed on a regular basis.

School lunches:

School lunches are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. They can be purchased at a cost of £2.40 for children in other year groups via ParentPay. Please contact the office if your child has any dietary requirements.



Children may bring their own packed lunch from home, which should be brought in a suitable container and should not include nuts, chocolate bars, sweets or canned drinks.

If you are in receipt of certain state benefits, work in the armed services, or have adopted a child from care, then you may qualify for the **Pupil Premium Grant**. The Pupil Premium Grant entitles your child to free school meals. You can find out if your child is eligible for this grant by using this Free School Meal Eligibility Checker. It only takes a few minutes to complete <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

Uniform:

Uniform reinforces who we are as a community and helps children to feel pride in being part of that community. The requirements for our school uniform are:

- Polo shirts: white
- Jumpers: red jumpers/sweatshirts/cardigans only (with or without school logo)
- School skirts: standard black or grey skirts
- School trousers: standard black or grey trousers (not tracksuit bottoms/jeans or similar)
- School shorts: standard black or grey shorts (not cycling shorts)
- School dresses: standard grey or red and white checked
- School shoes: black sensible shoes
- No make-up, nail varnish or jewellery: Stud earrings are allowed but must be removed for PE.

PE kit:

- T-shirt: plain white
- Shorts: plain black or navy
- Tracksuits: plain black or navy
- Trainers
- Hairband to tie back long hair

We have lots of pre-loved uniform available at no cost. If you require assistance, please contact Miss Hobbs (Home School Link Worker).

It is a good idea to label all items of clothing, including coats. They are much more likely to be returned to you again if they are misplaced.

PE days:

Year 1 and Year 2: Tuesday and Thursday

Year 3 and Year 4: Tuesday and Friday

Year 5: Monday and Thursday

Year 6: Tuesday and Thursday

**Attendance:**

It is hugely important that children attend school every day and that they always arrive on time.

Whilst we recognise that some absences are necessary, please be aware that prolonged or regular time off school can have a detrimental effect on your child's education and wellbeing.

Absence:

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please leave a message with the office, either by calling 01865 340420 or by emailing absence@abbeywoods.anthemtrust.uk, explaining why they will not be in. This should be done before 8:50am when the school registers are completed.

Breakfast Club:

Breakfast Club will take place in the inclusion room and drop-off starts at 8am. All bookings must be made in advance, via ParentPay. Please speak to the office if you would like further information.

After School Clubs:

After School Clubs run daily between 3:15pm and 4:00pm. Clubs on offer this term will be sent in a separate mailing.

Medical:

If your child has any medical conditions that have not been shared, please inform the school office so their record can be updated e.g. Asthma.

Contact details:

Please remember to contact the school office or update Parent Portal if you have changed your phone number, email address and/or address.

Raising concerns:

If you have any concerns about your child, your first point of contact should always be the class teacher. If you feel your concern has not been dealt with in a satisfactory way, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Volunteering in school:

We are always delighted when parents and carers volunteer their time in school. If you are interested in volunteering in some capacity, please contact the school office.

Local Governor Vacancies:

Can you make a difference to our school community? We would welcome applications for local governors from parents and carers who have skills or experience in one of the following areas: educational standards, safeguarding, human resources, health & safety and marketing. If you are interested and have the time, energy and commitment, please speak to me for further information.



RAAC:

You may have seen reports in the media about schools being closed due to safety concerns around a particular kind of concrete, RAAC aerated concrete. I am happy to inform you that Abbey Woods is not affected by this issue.

And finally:

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the gates bright and early tomorrow morning!

Kind regards,

Mrs Charter and the Abbey Woods Team