

Newsletter

17th October 2025

Term 1 - Responsibility

parents@abbotswoodprimary.org.uk



Aim High, Believe and Achieve

OUR VALUES

Responsibility
Empathy
Sense Of Pride
Perseverance
Enthusiasm
Curiosity
Teamwork

Monday 20th October 2025 is an INSET day.



Tesco Stronger Starts - We Need Your Votes!

We're thrilled to share that **Abbotswood Primary School** has been shortlisted for the **Tesco Stronger Starts in-store vote!**

From **early October 2025** until **mid-January 2026**, customers can vote for our project - the **Abbotswood Learning Hut**, an outdoor classroom designed to support group work, therapy sessions, and enriched learning experiences in our beautiful school grounds.

Every vote counts! The more votes we receive, the more funding we could win - up to **£1,500** for our project.

How to vote:

- Shop at any participating Tesco store (listed below).

You'll receive a blue token at the checkout - simply place it in our Abbotswood Primary School box!

Participating stores:

- Yate Extra, BS37 4AS
- Yate Station Road Express, BS37 4PH
- Yate Wellington Road Express, BS37 5UJ
- Yate Brimsham Park Express, BS37 7PJ

Please spread the word to friends and family - every token helps our children's learning grow!



SAT 25TH OCT

**EASTER COMPTON FARM,
BS35 5RE**

FOLLOW SIGNS FOR THE WAVE FROM J17 M5

Hallow-Fest

We have 4 tickets for the Hallow-Fest which we will be raffling off. Mrs Pritchard will be selling tickets at the main gate every morning and the draw will take place next Wednesday (22nd October).

Tickets are £1 a strip so please bring some cash if you'd like to enter.



01454 867777

admin@abbotswoodprimary.org.uk

Overall effectiveness

Quality of education

Behaviour and attitudes

Personal development

Leadership and management

Other

Good

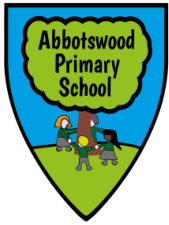
Good

Good

Outstanding

Good

Good



ABBOTSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Together We - AIM HIGH: BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

Executive Headteacher : Mr Rob Cockle

Head of School : Mrs Sarah Willoughby

Dear Parents/Carers,

Holidays in term time

Holidays during term time cannot be authorised. The new guidance that was issued in August 2024 states that if a child has more than 9 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 school week period (this does NOT include the holidays), a penalty notice will be issued.

Unauthorised absences include holidays, lates after the register closes or absences where reasons are not given or are not suitable reasons.

It is in your best interest to provide information of your holiday dates including booking information at least four weeks in advance.

Please see the information below as a reminder of the updated attendance procedures.

National Changes to the Attendance Process from August 24

From 19th August 2024 the attendance rules nationally are changing.

A Penalty Notice can be issued for **unauthorised** absences once there are a minimum of 10 sessions (5 days) within a 10 school week period (previously within a 7 week period).
The Penalty Notice will be issued per parent, per child.

The Penalty Notice amount is £160 if paid within 28 days. However, this will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

For a second Penalty Notice issued within a 3-year rolling period to the same parent in respect of the same child, the Penalty Notice is £160 if paid within 28 days. There is no option for this second offence to be reduced to the lower rate of £80.

If the Penalty Notice remains unpaid after 28 days, then you may be prosecuted for failing to secure regular school attendance.

A third Penalty Notice cannot be issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period. Should you continue to incur further unauthorised absences then alternative action will be considered, which could include a prosecution for failing to secure regular school attendance.

More information about taking time off in term time and these changes can be found on the South Glos website (southglos.gov.uk) under 'Holidays during school term time'.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the school via email parents@abbotswoodprimary.org.uk or phone and speak to Miss Griffiths or Mrs Pritchard.

NOTICE BOARD

Do you have a child due to start school in September 2026 or know someone that does?

We have lots of open days coming up so please give us a call and book yourself in to have a look around our lovely school.

Coming up soon.....

- ◆ **Monday 20th October 2025 - INSET**
- ◆ **Tuesday 21st October 2025 - Year 6 Height and Weight**
- ◆ **Tuesday 21st October 2025 - Reception Museum 2pm til 2.30pm**
- ◆ **Tuesday 21st October 2025 - How Can I Help My Child with Early Reading - Parent Workshop 2.30pm til 3pm**
- ◆ **Thursday 23rd October 2025 - Flu Immunisations**
- ◆ **Thursday 23rd October 2025 - St Mary's V Abbotswood Cup Match**

Uniform

We still have lots of good quality pre-loved uniform for sale. Items just 50p or £1. Please drop into the office and take a look. We will also exchange any item for a different size if your child has outgrown their uniform as long as it is in good condition and has been washed.



Workshops being held here at Abbotswood Primary School
(more details to follow)

Thursday 13th November 2025 - Parent Engagement - 9am

Wednesday 21st January 2026 - Masking Workshop - 9am

Thursday 12th February 2026 - Anxiety Workshop - 9am

Thursday 5th March 2026 - Sensory Workshop - 9am

Find out more about South Glos Parent Carers and the support available to you.

Your feedback drives real change in supporting neurodiverse children at school.

A chance for you to gain valuable information and support for your child.

Attendance

TARGET 96%

LAST WEEK 95.6%

THIS WEEK %



Learner of the Week and Respect Award

Hedgehogs - Theo and Poppy

Squirrels - Leo M and Makayla

Foxes - Frank and Elsie

Badgers - Louis and Skyla

Rabbits - Charlie and Ollie

Robins - Jersie and Muhammad

Deer - Pixie and Lily-Mae and Isla

Bats - Hollie H and Oliver

Woodpeckers - Aaila and Cameron

Otters - Kai and Jasmine

Kingfishers - Himasha and Ivy

Falcons - Will and Iyla

Dates for your Diary

2025

Monday 20th October 2025 - INSET

Tuesday 21st October 2025 - Year 6 - Height and Weight

Tuesday 21st October 2025 - Reception Class Museum 2pm - 2.30pm

Tuesday 21st October 2025 - How can I help my child with early reading? - Parent Workshop 2.30pm - 3pm

Thursday 23rd October 2025 - Flu immunisations

Thursday 23rd October 2025 - Year 4 Science Fair 2.45pm

Thursday 23rd October 2025 - St Mary's v Abbotswood Cup Match

Tuesday 4th November 2025 - Abbotswood v St Mary's Boys League Match

Monday 10th November 2025 - Abbotswood v Frampton Cotterell Boys League Match

Tuesday 11th November 2025 - Parents Evening

Wednesday 12th November 2025 - Parents Evening

Thursday 13th November 2025 - PINS Parent Engagement (details to follow)

Monday 8th December 2025 - Rocksteady Concert for Parents of band members only - 10am

Tuesday 9th December 2025 - Reception Nativity 2.30pm til 3pm

Tuesday 9th December 2025 - School Choir performing at Yate Shopping Centre

Wednesday 10th December 2025 - Reception Nativity 9.15am - 9.45am

Wednesday 10th December 2025 - Christmas Fair 3.30pm - 5pm

Monday 15th December 2025 - KS1 Nativity (time to be confirmed)

Tuesday 16th December 2025 - KS1 Nativity (time to be confirmed)

Wednesday 17th December 2025 - Christmas Dinner

2026

Monday 5th January 2026 - INSET

Wednesday 21st January 2026 - PINS - Masking Workshop (details to follow)

Thursday 12th February 2026 - PINS Anxiety Workshop (details to follow)

Thursday 26th February 2026 - Lego Competition

Thursday 5th March 2026 - PINS Sensory Workshop (details to follow)

Tuesday 17th March 2026 - Parents Evening

Wednesday 18th March 2026 - Parents Evening

Tuesday 24th March 2026 - Year 1 trip to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm (details to follow)

Wednesday 10th June 2026 - Sports Day (times to be confirmed)

Monday 15th June 2026 - Friday 19th June 2026 - Year 6 camp to Morfa Bay

Monday 22nd June 2026 - Friday 26th June 2026 - Year 5 swimming

Monday 29th June 2026 - Friday 3rd July 2026 - Year 5 swimming

Wednesday 1st July 2026 - Year 6 Transition to Brimsham Green

Thursday 2nd July 2026 - Year 6 Transition to Brimsham Green

Friday 10th July 2025 - INSET

Tuesday 14th July 2026 - Year 6 Play (time to be confirmed)

Wednesday 15th July 2026 - Year 6 Play (time to be confirmed)

Thursday 16th July 2026 - Year 6 Party (details to follow)

Friday 17th July 2026 - Year 6 Leavers Assembly (details to follow)

Monday 20th July 2026 - INSET

Tuesday 21st July 2026 - INSET

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION



While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES



Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control – digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS



Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world – discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES



Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY



Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable – developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE



Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



See full reference list on our website