

Newsletter

3rd 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

Breaking News from Year 2!

We have some *amazing* news to share... The results of the **Sense Poetry Competition** are in and... *drum roll please*... **Austin is a WINNER!**

Out of more than **9,300 entries** from across the country, Austin's brilliant poem was chosen by the Young Writers' editors and independent judge, Mark Grist, as one of just **five winners**.

The prize? A fabulous **Smiggle Goody Bag**

Here's what winners are encouraged to do next:

1. Scream loudly!
2. Tell your family - they'll be so proud!
3. See your name and winning words on the Young Writers' website.
4. Celebrate on social media (with your parents' help!) - don't forget to tag Young Writers.
5. Share the news with your teacher - you're officially a star pupil!

We are so proud of you, **Austin** - what an incredible achievement!



Well done Austin!

Appointments During School Hours

If your child needs to attend an appointment, please try to schedule it outside of school hours whenever possible. We understand that this isn't always feasible; however, arranging appointments at the beginning or end of the school day helps minimise disruption to learning.

If the appointment is during the morning and is local, we would expect your child to attend school beforehand.

Please send confirmation of the appointment (text or letter) to parents@abbotswoodprimary.org.uk, including your child's name, class, and the time you will need to collect them (if applicable).

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

'Aim High, Believe & Achieve'



Abbotswood Primary School

Is your child starting school in
September 2026?

Come and see our 'welcoming and nurturing school' in action. We have open days throughout October, November & December. Call or email to book a place for you and your child.



01454 867777



admin@abbotswoodprimary.org.uk



Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Good
Early years provision	Good



fun Thornbury palaces 2025

Saturday 4th October, 11-2

**SHARING SKILLS
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
CREATING TINY REVOLUTIONS**

Map designed by students at SGS College Filton in conjunction with JIGSAW Thornbury

LOCATIONS

- LEISURE CENTRE
- ST MARY PRECINCT LIBRARY
- LEISURE CENTRE
- KRUNCH POD
- TURNBERRIES
- LIBRARY
- TESORO LOUNGE

fun Thornbury palaces 2025

Saturday 4th October 11-2

Activity	Timings	Venue
Panache Steel Band - Feel the rhythm and join in with vibrant steel band workshops and performances.	11am - 2pm	St Mary Centre
Diglocal - Get coding and explore the world of technology	11am - 2pm	JIGSAW Upstairs
Thornbury + District Heritage Trust - Step back in time and discover the story of local dairying with fascinating artefacts, photos, and history	11am - 2pm	Library
Moon + Lotus Birth Prep - Try a mini taster antenatal class - 2 pre-booked slots or drop in	11am - 2pm	Turnberries
Krunch - Tuck into a delicious free BBQ at the Krunch Pod, alongside fun creative activities	11am - 2pm	The Pod
Avon Fire + Rescue - Fire Engine - Explore the fire engine, meet the crew, and get hands-on with practical activities plus essential home fire safety tips	11am - 2pm	The Pod
Woodland Makery - Get creative with seasonal crafts and hands-on tool activities	11-12	Outside JIGSAW Thornbury
Thornbury Town Council - Make your own wildflower seed bombs, design seed envelopes, enjoy nature-themed activity sheets, and join in a fun toilet roll craft game.	11-2	Outside JIGSAW Thornbury
Skills Connect South Gloucestershire - get creative and craft your very own hedgehog	11-2	Library
Better Communication Together - Join a magical signed story time	12-2	Library
Heart Within - Relax and unwind with a calming therapeutic yoga session	11-2	Turnberries
JIGSAW Cafe and Lending Library- Enjoy sweet treats and a warm welcome at our youth-led community café, and explore JIGSAW's lending library - members can borrow items to take home.	11-2	Cafe
Thornbury Leisure Centre - Dive in with a free family swim and ball games in the hall - available for the first 70 families; check in at the reception	Swim is 12.30pm until 13.15pm Sports hall games 1pm and 2pm.	Leisure Centre
Thornbury Radio - A chance to step up to the mic and try out what it's like to be a radio presenter with fun, interactive sessions.	11 - 2	JIGSAW Thornbury
Rotary in Thornbury - Come and learn about malaria as you explore the impressive giant mosquito	11 - 2	JIGSAW Thornbury
Kestrel Acrobatics & Tumbling - Marvel at flips, tumbles, and fantastic gymnastics skills in an exciting live showcase.	1pm - 1.30pm	Leisure Centre
Tosoro Lounge Come along for a free cup of tea or coffee in exchange for a parking ticket and enjoy a boardgame whilst you sit	11-2	Tosoro Lounge

**SHARING SKILLS
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fun Thornbury palaces 2025

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Saturday 4th October 11-2

Thornbury Fun Palaces
Saturday 4th October
11am - 2pm
Thornbury

Fun Palaces is a free, nationwide celebration of creativity, learning, and community. Towns and cities across the country come alive with events for all ages - from music, dance, crafts, and storytelling to science, coding, wellbeing, and much more.

It's your chance to try something new, meet your community, and enjoy a day full of fun - and it's completely free!

Join us in Thornbury: Across St Mary Centre, JIGSAW Thornbury, the Library, Turnberries, The Pod, the Leisure Centre, and Tosoro Lounge.

Everyone is welcome - there's something for all ages, from toddlers to adults!
For more information please email thornburyfunpalaces@jigsawthornbury.org.uk

**SHARING SKILLS
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
CREATING TINY REVOLUTIONS**

Event Details:

- Date:** Saturday 4th October (This Saturday!)
- Time:** 11am - 2:00pm
- Location:** See map for venues across Thornbury

Activities: Various free activities including a family swim, performances, BBQ, craft activities and more!

The event is a great way for the community to explore, connect, and have fun while celebrating creativity.

NOTICE BOARD

Social Media

Check out our pages on Facebook and Instagram where teachers post all the great stuff you children have been doing in class.



Happening this week.....

* **Monday 6th October 2025** -
KS2 Parent Homework
Workshop 2.45pm - 3.15pm

* **Wednesday 8th October 2025**
- Year 3 Puppet Workshop - if
you haven't yet paid please do
so via Eduspot.

Free School Meals

Have your circumstances changed? Do you think you may now be entitled to Free School Meals? If so please pop into the office and pick up a form or go to South Glos website where you can apply online.

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.

Photographs

Photographs will be ready in about 2 weeks. As soon as they are we will let you know.

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

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

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

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

Learner of the Week and Respect Award

- Hedgehogs - Roxie and Clara
- Squirrels - Ashleigh and Toyibat
- Foxes - Ronnie and Jonny
- Badgers - Austin and Leona
- Rabbits - Lacey and Jaxton
- Robins - Mia and Riley
- Deer - Harvey D and Kingsley
- Bats - Grace and Charlie
- Woodpeckers - Ryan and Ahmad
- Otters - Scarlett and Freddie
- Kingfishers - Poppy and Kane
- Falcons - Ari and Matty

Attendance

TARGET 96%

LAST WEEK 95.9%

THIS WEEK 95.7%

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Dates for your Diary

2025

Monday 6th October 2025 - KS2 Parent Homework Workshop 2.45pm til 3.15pm

Wednesday 8th October 2025 - Year 3 Puppet Workshop

Monday 13th October 2025 - Year 5 Explorer Dome

Monday 20th October 2025 - INSET

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 - Year 4 Science Fair - details to follow

Thursday 23rd October 2025 - Flu immunisations

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 (time to be confirmed)

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

Wednesday 10th December 2025 - Reception Nativity (time to be confirmed)

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 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 EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins - something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites - doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>