

Abbey Park School



'Potential into
Performance'

NEWSLETTER



Term 1



**The Park
Academies
Trust**



Message from the Principal



Now that the cooler weather has replaced the unseasonably warm start to the term and the summer holidays seem like a distant memory, it is that time again when I reflect on the highlights of the past term.

We were delighted to celebrate some fantastic examination results last summer from our outgoing Year 11 pupils. They worked incredibly hard and achieved some excellent outcomes and we are so proud of their achievements. We wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education and future careers.

Our pupils have made a fantastic start to the 2026-27 academic year. In particular, our Year 7 pupils have settled in quickly and confidently found their way around the school, fully embracing life at Abbey Park! It was also a pleasure to welcome so many parents and carers to our Year 7 Tutor Evening back in September. The event provided an opportunity to meet tutors and the Head of Year, learn more about our reading programme, ePraise and connect with our SENDCo.

Last week, our pupils across the school showed tremendous support for World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow and taking part in our annual House Bikeathon. Together, they raised valuable funds for YoungMinds, demonstrating both their enthusiasm and commitment to supporting an important cause.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity shown during our Harvest Collection. Donations were made to the Swindon Food Collective, helping to support families in need across our local community. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make such a positive difference.

This year, we have relaunched our enrichment programme, and it has been great to see so many pupils signing up for lunchtime and after-school clubs. From Crochet Club to Dance, and from Dungeons & Dragons to Newspaper Club, and everything in between(!). There truly is something for everyone and a great way to meet fellow pupils and make new friends and become even more involved in school life. I am a strong believer that the more you put into school, the more you get out of it!

Rehearsals are now well underway for our school production of *Matilda: The Musical*. Cast members have been putting in the graft every Tuesday and Thursday after school, and I cannot wait to see their efforts come to life when the show takes to the stage in February.

Earlier this week, Year 11 pupils took part in a Mock Interview Day, giving them the opportunity to practise their interview skills with volunteers from a range of businesses and organisations. The experience provided valuable feedback and insight, helping to prepare them for future applications, interviews and employment opportunities.

Looking ahead, there are many exciting events planned for next term. The Year 7 Christmas Disco will take place on 3 December, and our annual Red Oaks and Abbey Park Fireworks Display will be held on 5 November. Tickets for both events are now available to purchase via Arbor.

It is also an important time for our Year 11 pupils who will begin their mock examinations next term. Mock results day is planned for Tuesday 15th December, followed by a parents' evening later the same day. Please note that Year 11 pupils will have exams in school during the two INSET days coming up in November; further information will follow regarding the arrangements on these days.

As we approach the end of another busy term, I would like to thank our pupils, staff, parents and carers for their continued support and commitment to our school community. It has been wonderful to see our pupils embracing the many opportunities on offer, demonstrating resilience, kindness and ambition in all that they do. We look forward to an equally exciting term ahead and wish everyone a happy, restful and enjoyable break when it arrives.

Mr Ward
Principal

European Day of Languages 2026: Celebrating the Diversity of Our School Community

To celebrate the **European Day of Languages**, which officially took place on Saturday the 26th of September, the MFL Department organised a range of exciting activities to promote linguistic diversity, cultural awareness, and a love of languages across the school around the theme of "Languages unite! How languages shape inclusion".

Pupils had the opportunity to visit our **European-themed photo booth**, located in the Street, where they could take fun photographs with friends using a variety of language and cultural props. The activity proved to be popular and helped create a vibrant atmosphere throughout the day.

In addition, pupils enjoyed **face painting**, with many choosing to have the flags of different European countries painted on their cheeks. This colourful activity encouraged conversations about different nations, cultures, and languages represented within our school community.

Our **EAL pupils** also proudly shared aspects of their heritage and identity. Through engaging PowerPoint presentations, pupils introduced their classmates to their countries, traditions, celebrations, languages, and cultural customs. These presentations provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to learn from one another and to appreciate the rich diversity within our school.

The MFL Department would like to thank all pupils and staff who participated and helped make this day such a success. Events such as these remind us that languages are not only a means of communication but also a gateway to understanding different cultures, building connections, and celebrating the diversity that makes our school community unique.

"Languages open doors to new friendships, new opportunities, and new ways of understanding the world."





poland

Poland is located in Central Europe, bordered by Germany in the West, Ukraine and Belarus in the East, Lithuania in Northeast and the Czech republic and Slovakia in the South. The North is fully bound to the Baltic Sea. The southern/ Southwest areas are mostly mountainous, with major mountains such as Smrk (on the Czech-polish border) and Zielona Góra. The highest mountain is Rysy at 2,499 metres. The capital city is Warszawa (Warsaw).

Polish culture is made up of traditional Slavic roots, Catholic heritage and it's historical experiences. There are holidays such as Powstanie Warszawskie, which highlights the Polish rebellion against Nazi control in Warsaw (1st of August, 1944 at 17:00 CEST. Which is known as Hour W), Constitution Day (3rd May) and other major Holidays an celebrations. Traditional foods include Pierogi (Dumplings), Rosół (Chicken soup) and Barszcz.

Key Words/Phrases include Dzień dobry (Hello), Cześć (informal hello/hi), Mam na imię (my name is) and Do widzenia (goodbye).



Here are some slides created by our EAL pupils which promote their cultures and traditions



It is a traditional food it is one of the most well known in Brazil. It surged in the city of Minas Gerais in the century XVIII. The recipe basically is sweet starch, eggs, milk, cheese and salt.



WOLOF

Masquerade [Zimba]

- The Zimba is a traditional mask, dancer of WOLOF people from Gambia, they dress like a lion and act like one. The Zimba like to get close to people and scare them. Sometimes there is a gathering were they chase you and when you get caught you would be given commands to obey them.



Häufige Wörter und Ausdrücke:

- Hallo (Hello)
- Tschüss (Bye)
- Ja (Yes)
- Nein (No)
- Danke (Thanks)
- Bitte (Please)
- Ich komme aus... (I come from...)
- Wie sind du? (How are you?)
- Sehr gut (Very good)
- Nicht gut (Not good)

Deutsch Essen:

Deutsch Chronologie der Geschichte:

843: First Germany (East Francia)

962: Holy Roman Empire forms

1871: German Reich forms

1906: Holy Roman Empire falls

1945: German Loses WWII, being split into West Germany (NATO) and East Germany (Soviet Bloc), building the Berlin wall

1933: Nazi Germany forms

1989: Germany is whole again, and the Berlin wall is destroyed, making modern Germany



Welkommen zu mein steckdose um Deutschland!

(Welcome to my Powerpoint about Germany!)
This is my Powerpoint about Germany (the nation I chose for the European Day of Languages).

Die Standort von Deutschland:

Germany is located in the middle of Europe, bordering 9 countries, those being: **Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands.**

The term has flown by and so have many inter-school fixtures against local Swindon schools as well as the Utilia Football Festival for Year 7 girls.

Netball

The girls netball fixtures have been full on with matches against Highworth and LPA as well as tournament nights.

Results:

LPA: Y9 lost 12-8 U16 lost 23-3

Highworth: Y7 draw, Y8 won, Y9 won 17-7, U16 lost 18-2

Football

Each year Swindon Town Football in the Community host a national competition with the winners getting a chance to play at Wembley before the FA cup final. Our Year 7 team narrowly missed out on a place in the final losing the semi-final on penalties.

Due to the warm, dry weather our playing fields have been out of action so unfortunately no boys rugby fixtures have happened.

Individual success

Kayla played in the South West Girls Golf Championship at Chippenham GC. In a field of 50, she came third overall with a nett score of 71 and she came first in the U16 nett category.

Kayla represented Wiltshire in the Girls SW Inter-Counties competition. She played 5 matches, winning her 3 foursomes matches. Despite losing her 2 singles matches (played as scratch matches), she played fantastically against her opponents (who were very low handicappers who play for England) and pushed them right to the end, taking them to the 16th and 17th holes.



An account of the day by one of the pupils who attended:

'On Wednesday 7th October the Year 7 TPAT Scholars spent the afternoon at Marlborough College. When we arrived, it was soaking wet and we were taken on a mini tour through the grounds. It was ginormous! There was a massive hill in the middle where some people thought dead people were buried.

Finally, when we had walked nearly a mile, one of the librarians (yes, 'one of' because they need 3!) took us inside the library. There were 6 activities that we could choose from, but I only managed 2. One problem was that some people were studying so we needed to tiptoe around them to see the books behind them. Their non-fiction library is bigger than our entire one!

Next we had a penguin and apple juice for snack, but I couldn't help noticing how many staff and tables they had. Then I was told that they have lunch 1 year at a time so there must have been a lot of people in 1 year!

When I was walking home, I couldn't help wondering how cool it would be to go to that school.

I can't wait for my next visit.'



Harvest Collection for Swindon Food Collective

A huge thank you to you all our APS families for helping to support this year's Harvest collection for the Swindon Food Collective.



With the fantastic organisational help of the School Council, we were able to fill our 15 allocated crates with donations and collect surplus donations in bags too!

Special recognition must go to Elliott M and Utjiua G who during the appeal week, arrived in school early and volunteered every day with the collection. They have been awarded a well-deserved R4 for their efforts!

Thank you so much!

Mrs O'Brien

Pupil Laptops

When pupils are given a school laptop to use at home, please ensure the software and antivirus are updated by turning the laptop on weekly.

Please return the laptop to the school reception or IT office if it is no longer in use at home so that it can be distributed to pupils who now need a device.

If you're experiencing any problems with the laptop at home, please let us know.



IT Support

School Uniform Donations

We'd be grateful for any outgrown items pupils no longer need.

If they have any of the following in good condition, please consider donating them rather than letting them sit unused.

- Revision guides or set texts
- Maths equipment (e.g. protractors, geometry sets)
- School uniform (blazers, ties, PE kits)
- Bags

Please drop donations off at reception. These resources will directly support our younger pupils.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping our school community thrive.

Warm regards,

Mr Stubbs
Assistant Principal



Safeguarding



At Abbey Park we are committed to ensuring a culture of safeguarding in our school and it is paramount in all we do.

We hope that our termly safeguarding update will give you an overview of our approach, offer some useful guidance and information and inform you of what your child is learning in school about how to keep themselves safe.

For more information about safeguarding, please look at our website.

What does Safeguarding look like at Abbey Park?

At Abbey Park School we follow the Government policy document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. This is statutory guidance for all schools in England to follow and comply with. It has recently been updated and therefore our safeguarding policy has been updated to reflect this. You can find this on our safeguarding section on the school website. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility**. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in making sure that children grow up having the best life chances. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all adults should make sure their approach puts the child at the centre of the decision making and that the best interests of the child are always considered. We believe that it is in the best interest of our children to have opportunities to learn how to stay safe both in and outside of school. Our safeguarding themes are woven into lessons across the curriculum, into assemblies and throughout daily life in school. Here are just a few examples of how we teach safeguarding at Abbey Park:

- Dedicated safeguarding team in school every day
- Pastoral support for each year group.
- Pastoral Support Assistants who have specialist training in supporting a child in their social and emotional needs
- Members of staff who have completed basic mental health training
- Mental health pupil ambassadors
- Mental health staff ambassadors
- A dedicated mental health lead – Mrs Stevens
- Wellbeing Wednesday each Wednesday Tutor time looking at how to look after mental health
- Assemblies and lessons taught throughout the year, including but not extensively, anti-bullying, equality, diversity, fire, sun, children's safety, exploitation, sexual harassment and violence and online safety.
- PHSE curriculum covering how to be healthy, having healthy relationships and developing emotional literacy
- Online safety curriculum
- RSE (Relationships and sex education) curriculum
- Weekly tutor time reminders about staying safe in school and our expectations

If you need any support with your child, please contact a member of the safeguarding Team.

Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Mrs Kara Stevens



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Mrs Lorraine Hatcliffe



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Ms Vanessa Redondo



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Miss Stacey Prince



Safeguarding



Contact details and circumstances – please keep us up to date!

It is vitally important that we have the correct contact details for every parent/carer. If you change your phone number, e – mail or move house, please let the admin team know or update it on Arbor. We also need at least two emergency contacts for your child. Unless there is a court order saying differently both parents should be listed on the contacts.

We also ask that you keep us up to date with any changes in your personal circumstances that may impact your child. Please see below the contact details of the safeguarding team.

Mrs Stevens: stevensk@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Mrs Hatcliffe: hatcliffel@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Miss Redondo: redondov@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Miss Prince: princes@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Useful contacts:

‘Contact Swindon’ has changed its name and is now known as Children and Families Contact Swindon. If you have concerns about a child and want to speak to a social worker/family services worker without going through school please call – 01793 464646

If you have concerns that a child is at immediate risk of harm, please call the Police on 999

School Nursing team – for support to help children with their physical, mental and emotional well-being and referring to other specialist agencies.

Tel – 01793 465050 or email snn@swindon.gov.uk

Online safety guidance for parents – <https://swgfl.org.uk/>

Social care or external agency involvement

A polite request to keep the Pastoral team updated if your child is receiving support from social services or any external agencies. This will enable us to ensure the right support is given at the right time.

Special guardianship orders or unofficial care givers

Just a reminder to keep the school updated if a child is under a Special guardianship order or unofficial care placement to ensure they receive any support needed.

Food bank and Boxes of Hope

We understand that times are incredibly challenging for many families right now, and making choices between essentials like food and electricity is a reality no one should have to face. Please know you're not alone, and there is support available.

If you're finding things difficult, our Pastoral team is here to help—whether it's referring you to the local food bank or accessing a Box of Hope to ease the pressure. You only need to ask, and we'll do everything we can to support you with care and confidentiality.

Abbey Park School Attendance Ladder



Attendance Matters

Research shows that there is a direct link between good attendance to school and better outcomes for young adults.

If you are struggling with your child's attendance please contact your Child's Head of Key Stage, PSA or Miss Anstee for support.

First aid

Just a reminder that we can only offer first aid in school.

We are not able to treat pre-existing conditions as we are only first aiders.

Paracetamol – We will not issue any paracetamol to pupils during P5 to ensure pupils do not take another dose at home.

Assembly and PSHE this term

At Abbey Park School all pupils attend Assemblies and PSHE sessions each week.

During term 1 pupils have had the following assemblies: Potential into Performance-New beginnings, PROUD, Safeguarding (Introduction to), Careers, Benefits of reading, Mental Health Day, Black History Month and Head of House.

During PSHE this term pupils have been learning about the following topics:

Year 7	Transition/Welcome to Abbey Park
Year 8	Global issues & discrimination
Year 9	British Rights & Values: Living in the wider world
Year 10	Global issues, incl terrorism
Year 11	CEIAG: Living in the wider world (next steps)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Regularly engaging children in open dialogue fosters trust and emotional expression. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgment. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.

2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as "I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind."

3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a proactive mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, support them in breaking the task into smaller steps, saying things like "Let's focus on just this first question for now."

4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET

Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly on a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.

5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES

Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example to the child for how to unwind.

6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that enhances resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by modelling and practicing calm communication.

7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS

Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage these feelings more effectively. When a child's upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.

8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions boosts confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own lunches for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.

9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES

Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practise this regularly. Reinforcing this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, makes progress on a project or reaches another type of personal goal, praise their efforts. Emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are!

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on a secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



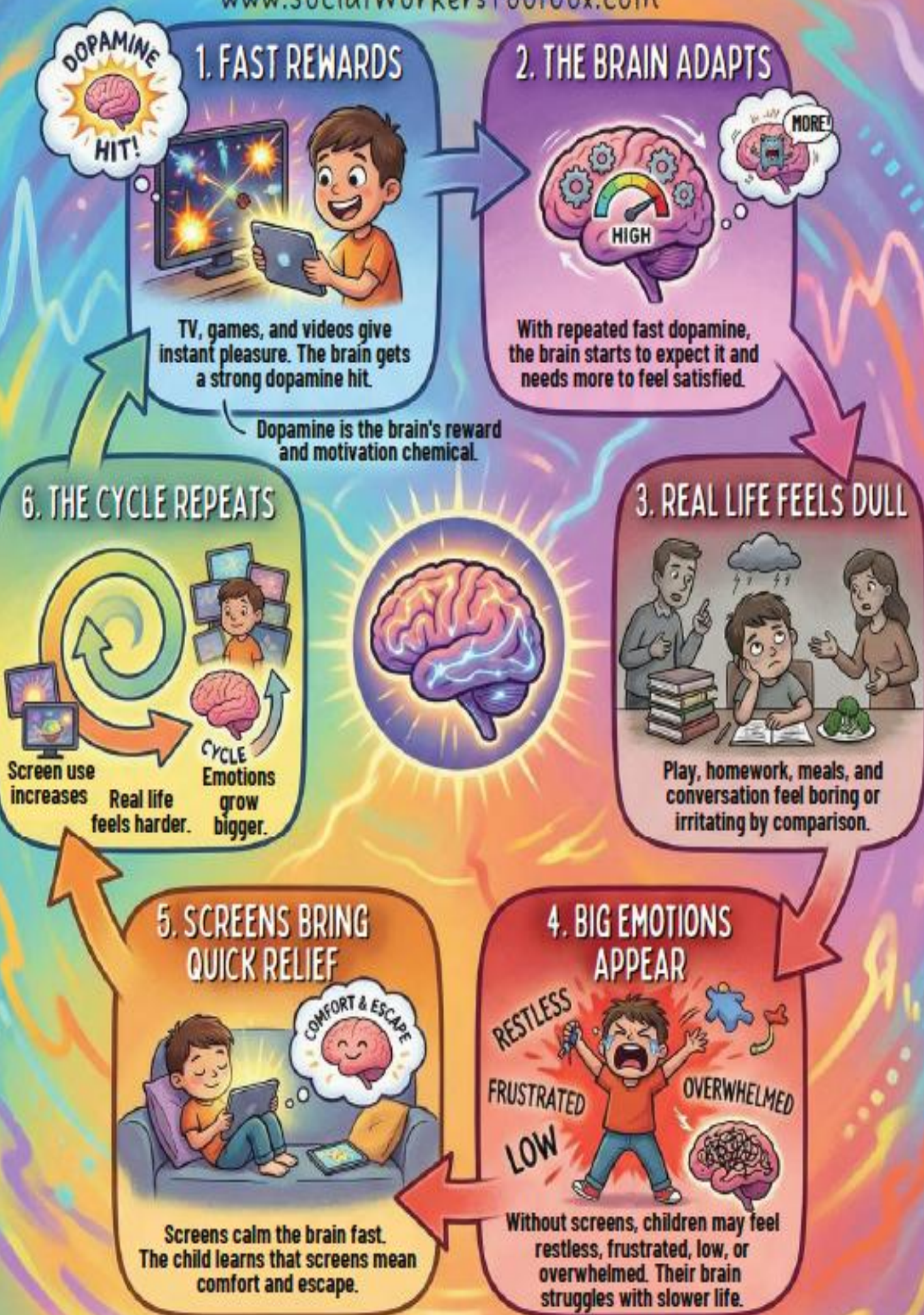
#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

THE SCREEN CYCLE AND THE CHILD'S BRAIN:

WHY EVERYDAY LIFE FEELS HARDER AFTER SCREEN USE

www.SocialWorkersToolbox.com



Break the cycle: Prioritise connection, outdoor play, and slow, engaging activities such as walking and talking, sports, creative projects, reading, music, cooking, building, puzzles, or shared tasks. These help the brain settle and cope with everyday life.



Buying books

In the library we try to keep a wide variety of books and authors, however it is impossible to stock everything. If your child enjoys reading it can be difficult to keep up with buying them books, especially in the current economic climate.

So here are a few tips to keep costs down:

- Join your local library, it is free to join and you can borrow up to 16 books at a time.
- While at the library, many have a withdrawn section where you

can take as many books as you can carry for £1.

- Charity shops often have a book section, the bonus is you can return them when you have finished and support a good cause.
- Discount book shops such as The Works offer a wide range of books at discount prices.
- Online WoB (World of Books) is a secondhand book shop which offers books at a reasonable price and offers free delivery in the UK.

Local libraries

North Swindon Library

Orbital Retail Park, Thamesdown Drive, Swindon, SN25 4AN

01793 707120

northswindon.library@swindon.gov.uk

Current opening hours

- Monday - 2.00pm - 6.00pm
- Tuesday - closed
- Wednesday - 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Thursday - closed
- Friday - 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Saturday - 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Sunday - 11.00am - 3.00pm

Central Library

Regent Circus, Swindon, SN1 1QG

01793 463238

central.library@swindon.gov.uk

Current opening hours

- Monday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Tuesday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Wednesday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Thursday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Friday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Saturday - 10.00am - 4.00pm
- Sunday - closed

Local Bookshops

Bert's Books

54 Godwin Court, Swindon, SN1 4BB

07949 190977

bert@bertsbooks.co.uk

Opening hours

- Monday - 8.30am - 5.30pm
- Tuesday - 8.30am - 5.30pm
- Wednesday - 8.30am - 5.30pm
- Thursday - 8.30am - 5.30pm
- Friday - 8.30am - 5.30pm
- Saturday - 8.30am - 5.30pm
- Sunday - 10.30am - 4.00pm

Waterstones

3 Canal Walk, Swindon SN1 1LD

01793 436465

www.waterstones.com

Opening Hours

- Monday 9.00am - 5.30pm
- Tuesday 9.00am - 5.30pm
- Wednesday 9.00am - 5.30pm
- Thursday 9.00am - 5.30pm
- Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm
- Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm
- Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm



English	Beowulf: Anglo-Saxon life, character and theme analysis
Maths	Prime factorisation, HCF & LCM, order of operations, negative numbers
Science	Particles and Forces
History	Medieval Britain and the Black Death
Geography	Christianity & Medieval History unit
PT	Christianity & Medieval History
Computing	Microsoft PowerPoint and online safety
Art	Jim Dine project
Drama	Toyshop performance project
Music	Arriba! – notation, melody and keyboard skills
DT	Monster Book Cover (Textiles)
PE	Team sports, dance, gymnastics and fitness

Year 8 Curriculum – Term 2



English	A Christmas Carol and Victorian England
Maths	Equations & inequalities, linear graphs, estimation, ratio
Science	Periodic Table and Digestion
History	The Victorian Age
Geography	History cross-curricular unit
PT	Victorian History cross-curricular unit
Computing	Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
Art	Peace Poster project
Drama	Commedia Dell'Arte
Music	Blues and Music Technology
DT	Geometric Cushions (Textiles)
PE	Develop skills in major sports, dance, gymnastics and badminton



English	War Poetry and WWI themes
Maths	Algebra review, simultaneous equations, graphs and angles
Science	Atomic Structure & Periodic Table
History	Nazi Germany and the Holocaust
Geography	GCSE Living World assessment preparation
PT	Anne Frank, Judaism and the Holocaust
Computing	App Development
Art	Protest/Activism Art
Drama	Devising workshops to explore drama techniques from different stimuli
Music	Time Lapse (Minimalism & Sequencing)
DT	Embroidery Wallet project
PE	Advanced sport-specific skills and tactics

Year 10 Curriculum – Term 2



English	Non-Fiction Writing, Language Paper 1, persuasive writing and spoken language
Maths	Foundation: Transformations, ratio and data • Higher: Inequalities, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio and probability
Science	Electricity and Chemical Changes
History	Modern Medicine and the British Sector of the Western Front
Geography	Natural Hazards and GCSE exam preparation
Computer Science	Data Representation, Computer Systems and Python programming
Business Studies	Spotting a Business Opportunity: customer needs, market research and competition
Drama	DNA – themes, characters and context
Art	Natural Forms project
Design & Technology	Energy generation, smart materials and modern materials
Food Preparation & Nutrition	Vitamins, minerals, water, energy needs and healthy eating
Music	Melody, structure, solo performance and Classical Music
PT	Christian Practices: worship, festivals, pilgrimage and church life
PE	GCSE: Movement analysis and cardiovascular & respiratory systems BTEC: Methods of training Sports Science: Participation & Leadership
Sociology	Research Methods, ethics, interviews, questionnaires and sampling

Year 11 Curriculum – Term 2



English	Revision for mock examinations including Language Paper 1 and Conflict Poetry
Maths	Foundation: Fractions, indices, standard form and angles • Higher: Surds, functions and vectors
Science	Paper 1 revision and Waves
History	The End of the Cold War, Reagan, Gorbachev and the collapse of the Soviet Union
Geography	Changing Economic World and mock examination preparation
Computer Science	Cyber Security, social engineering and malicious software
Business Studies	Marketing Decisions: product life cycle, pricing, promotion and distribution
Drama	Monologues, duologues and practical exam preparation
Art	Identity project development
Design & Technology	NEA design development, modelling and manufacturing specification
Food Preparation & Nutrition	Food processing, production and practical food skills
Music	Ensemble performance, composition and Area of Study 4
PT	Religion, Peace and Conflict: war, pacifism, justice and reconciliation
PE	GCSE: Ethical issues in sport and Sports Psychology BTEC: Review the planning & leading of sports activities
Sociology	Crime and Deviance, social control and theories of crime



CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL



Wed 18th Nov - Fri 27th Nov

SWINDON
CHRISTMAS
TOY APPEAL

Helping Swindon's
children to be happy
by providing gifts this
Christmas!



DROP OFF DONATIONS AT
THE LIBRARY - RECEIVE
AN R1! **THANK YOU!**

YEAR 7

Christmas DISCO

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2026

6-8 PM | £3 | APS HALL

MUSIC, DANCING AND
CHRISTMAS VIBES.

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED VIA THE
ARBOR SCHOOL SHOP.



YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HELP

Abbey Park Music Department
needs instruments!

We could make use of any
unused/unwanted instruments you may
have sat in the attic or cupboard.
Please send into school and help bring
the Music Department alive!



hutchingsc@abbeyparkschool.org.uk if
you require any more information



Swindon

Music
Co-operative

Music Lessons

Drums. Singing. Guitar. Ukulele. Piano

& Violin *At Abbey Park School*

Why choose our lessons?

- Convenient: Lessons happen during the school day, no extra travel required
- Flexible: Arranged directly with you after application
- Expert Tuition: Professional, experienced music teachers



Lesson Options & Prices

15 minute individual lesson or 30 minute paired lesson. £8.75

20 minute individual lesson. £11.70

30 minute individual lesson. £17.50

45 minute individual lesson (online only)

Prices are per lesson

Shared lesson options

(please note, not available for Piano or Drums)

-3 pupils in 30 minutes

-2 pupils in 20 minutes



01793 781973



info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk



Let the Music Begin - Apply now!



Contact details and consents

Having up-to-date contact information enables us to communicate with you promptly in the unlikely event of an emergency school closure during the day. This ensures that we can communicate effectively and keep you informed of any urgent developments.

Please take a moment to review the contact details and consents we have recorded for you on the Arbor Parent Portal are correct.

If your circumstances have changed and your child can no longer go home by themselves in event of an emergency school closure, you can update the consent accordingly on Arbor.

Reminder:

Autumn Break – Monday 26th – Friday 30th October
All **pupils return** to school on **Monday 2nd November**

Inset Days

Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th November

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

- Main Reception: 01793 705400
- Email: admin@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

School Calendar



Monday 2 nd November	All years return to school
Wednesday 4 th November	EVENT: 'Blunt Truth' presentation – all years
Monday 9 th November	TRIP: Swindon Young Literature Festival trip to Wyvern Theatre, Swindon (MORNING) EVENT: Y7 Finance Workshops
Tuesday 10 th November	EVENT: Swindon Young Literature Festival – Author event
Wednesday 11 th November	EVENT: Swindon Young Literature Festival – Author event
Thursday 12 th November	TRIP: GCSE Music trip to BSO Platform, Swindon EVENT: Y7 poet talk
Friday 13 th November	TRIP: Y7 Humanities trip to Steam, Swindon (MORNING) TRIP: Y8 Humanities trip to Steam, Swindon (AFTERNOON)
Monday 16 th November	INSET
Tuesday 17 th November	INSET
Thursday 19 th November	EVENT: Y8 Scrap Challenge
Friday 20 th November	TRIP: Y9 Humanities trip to Imperial War museum, London
Friday 27 th November	TRIP: Y11 & Y8 Drama trip to 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime', Bath EVENT: Inspire a generation
Tuesday 1 st December	EVENT: G2G speaker
Wednesday 2 nd December	TRIP: Y7 TPAT Scholars to Marlborough College
Thursday 3 rd December	TRIP: TPAT Scholars trip to Bath University EVENING EVENT: Y7 School Disco – 6–8pm
Friday 4 th December	TRIP: Y11 GCSE Media trip to Harry Potter World
Monday 7 th – Friday 11 th December	Wellbeing Week
Monday 7 th December	Trip: Y8 English trip to 'A Christmas Carol', Swindon Arts Centre
Thursday 10 th December	EVENTS: Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day EVENING EVENT: Christmas Concert 6pm
Friday 11 th December	TRIP: Y8 English trip to Black Country Museum
Tuesday 15 th December	TRIP: Y9 rewards trip to Jack and The Beanstalk Panto, Wyvern Theatre, Swindon EVENING EVENT: Y11 Subject Consultation Evening – 4–7:30pm
Thursday 17 th December	EVENING EVENT: Church Christmas Concert – 6pm
Friday 18 th December	Lunchtime finish for all years – 12.30pm

Term dates



IMPORTANT NOTICE – Y11 EXAMS

All Y11 pupils need to be available for exams on Inset Day



Abbey Park School Terms and Holidays 2026 - 2027



The Park
Academies
Trust

August 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

INSET Days

1st and 2nd September, 16th and 17th November, 12th February, 7th June, 21st July

Lunchtime Finish

18th December and 20th July

Bank Holidays 2026/27 UK

31 August '26	August Bank Holiday	1 January '27	New Year's Day	3 May '27	Early May Bank Holiday
25 December '26	Christmas Day	26 March '27	Good Friday	31 May '27	Spring Bank Holiday
26 December '26	Boxing Day	29 March '27	Easter Monday		