

News from Abbey Park School

Term 1 - October 2025

'Potential into Performance'



**The Park
Academies
Trust**



Message from the Principal

'Potential into Performance'

I am delighted to share the excellent examination results achieved by our pupils this summer. Notably, our EBacc outcomes and strong passes in both English and Mathematics reflect the dedication and commitment of our pupils and staff. These achievements are a testament to the hard work invested throughout the year - congratulations to all involved.

The new academic year has started on a very positive note. Here are just a few highlights from this term:

Year 7 have made a brilliant start to their Abbey Park journey. They've shown great enthusiasm in their studies and wider school life. It was wonderful to welcome so many parents to the Year 7 Tutor Evening in September – a valuable opportunity to meet tutors and Heads of Year, learn about our literacy programme, ePraise, our newly formed PTA, and connect with our SEND team.

Pupils across the school showed tremendous support for World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow and participating in our annual House Bikeathon, raising funds for the Young Minds charity. Special congratulations go to Avebury House for recording the longest cumulative cycling time - a fantastic team effort.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our pupils during the Harvest Collection. Donations were made to the Swindon Food Collective, helping families in need across our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed – your kindness truly makes a difference.

Our Autumn Music Concert was a wonderful celebration of musical talent, featuring a variety of instruments and vocal performances. The evening concluded with a spectacular joint performance by our school choir and the Purton Singers. Well done to all the musicians and singers who took part – you were fantastic!

Looking ahead, we're excited for the Red Oaks and Abbey Park Fireworks Display on Wednesday 5th November – a dazzling evening not to be missed! Additionally, Year 7 pupils can look forward to the Year 7 Christmas Disco on Friday 12th December. Tickets for both events are now available via Arbor.

In closing, I would like to thank all members of our school community - pupils, parents/carers and staff - for your continued support and commitment. I look forward to building on this strong start and sharing further successes as the year progresses.

Regards,

**Mr J Ward
Principal**

PE

Fixture & Tournaments

The new academic year has got off to a successful start with the PE department. We have seen personal achievements from Ava G (Y11) & Daisy G (Y10) who have both been selected to represent the Wiltshire Schools u16s in football.

The netball season has been full on with fixtures and tournaments for every year group. Some notable results;

Matchday 1 LPA:

Y7 won 3-1 Y9 lost 25-1
Y8 lost 10-1 U16 lost 30-4

Matchday 2 Lawn Manor Academy

Y7 lost 0-2 Y9 won 7-1
Y8 won 15-3 U16 won 15-2

Matchday 3 Nova H

Y7 lost 7-4
Y8 won 15-7
U16 lost 15-25

Y8 came joint fifth with The Deanery in their tournament.

In rugby the Y10 team had a convincing 26-19 friendly win over Commonweal and then beat them in the Quarter Finals of the cup 39-15. Our Y7s have played in two development tournaments in preparation for the knockout cup competition that starts in late October.

Y8 boys have played in two development tournaments winning 5 matches and losing 2 matches. They have had a closely contested match against Lawn Manor coming away 39-25 winners. We await the outcome of the semi final.

EFL Utilita Cup

A selection of girls U13 were invited to attend the EFL Utilita Cup at Foundation Park. The winners of the competition would represent Swindon in the regional rounds.

APS played matches against Wyvern, LPA, The Deanery, RWBA, Dorcan and Kingsdown. Up first was an inter-trust derby against LPA in which APS were victorious with a 2-1 win. This set the tone for the rest of the matches with wins against The Deanery, RWBA, and Dorcan. There was a closely contested draw against previous winners, Wyvern and a loss to Kingsdown 1-2.

These results put APS into the semi final against Commonweal. A bit of a one sided affair with a 4-0 win, a hat trick from Amelia and a goal from Kiki.

Into the final against Kingsdown. Having lost to them 1-2 already APS had something to prove. The game played out a 1-1 draw which meant penalties.

Unfortunately APS lost 3-2. However, despite the initial disappointment the girls played some great football and should be really proud to get to the final.

Squad: Lucy, Amelia, Kiki, Mia, Ruby, Esmail, Faith, Millie.



PE Department

Performing Arts

Mary Poppins Jr.

Rehearsals are well underway now and the cast of Mary Poppins Jr. are working hard.

The songs have all been learnt and we are now in the process of starting the choreography.

The primary schools are booked to come and see the dress rehearsals – we cannot wait!



Get the dates in your diary – 11th February at 4.30pm, 12th and 13th February at 6.30pm.

Mrs Hutchings

Curriculum Leader - Performing Arts

Modern Foreign Languages

Bonjour!

This term the MFL department has been shining a light on languages beyond French and Spanish, as we celebrated European Day of Languages on 26th September.

Pupils took part in tutor challenges and quizzes, and demonstrated their amazing creativity by designing posters around the theme "Languages open hearts and minds".

It was very difficult to pick our winners, but after lots of thought, we wish to congratulate the following pupils:

Y7: Elif

Y8: Skyla

Y9: Freya

And our overall winner... Amelie in Y7!

The overall winner was chosen for its striking visuals, universal appeal, and that it can be understood and interpreted by speakers of any language. Bravo, Amelie!

Mrs Ryder

Curriculum Leader - MFL



Donations for Musical Instruments

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

Music Lessons



**1-1
Instrumental
music lessons
at school, online
or at home.**

*Piano, Drums, Guitar,
Woodwind, Brass and Strings.*

**Swindon
Music
Co-operative -
providing 1-1
instrumental
lessons in schools
across Swindon and
Wiltshire since 1998.**



Our aim is to develop each pupil's musical potential according to their individual needs and aspirations. Quality of teaching is monitored through regular observations of all our teachers.

For more information or to apply please scan the QR code below



Application form



More information

**Swindon Music Co-operative, Astoria House, 165/166 Victoria Road, Swindon, SN1 3BU
01793 781973 • info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk • swindonmusiccoop.co.uk**

Careers

Amazing Apprenticeships

Click here to access a series of informative webinars for parents, carers and aspiring apprentices:

[Webinars & Workshops - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

Y11 Mock Interview Day

On Tuesday 14th October, Y11 pupils took part in our mock interview day. Throughout the morning, 40 external volunteers visited the school and conducted 1:1 interviews with all Y11 pupils.

Pupils were sent a job advertisement beforehand and used their PSHE lessons to help prepare for their interview the following day.

All interviewers commended the behaviour, attitude and professionalism of our Y11 cohort. The atmosphere on the day was truly fantastic, pupils were very positive and couldn't wait to get started. This valuable process is a step towards ensuring our Y11s have access to a robust and informative careers journey before they move on to the next stage of education or employment.

Well done Y11s and thank you to all the volunteer interviewers who helped us on the day. This truly was a memorable event.

Mr Maddern

Assistant Principal



St Paul's Cathedral, London

On Thursday 9th October the Humanities department took 40 Year 10 and 11 pupils to St Paul's Cathedral, London. This was an exciting opportunity for pupils to be able to see one of London's most famous monuments and to engage in British history and religion.

As we approached London, Mrs Hatcliffe spoke to pupils about their surroundings and the history of the area. We passed the Houses of Parliament, Elizabeth Tower, the London Eye and drove under Waterloo Bridge where the whole bus erupted into song singing Abba's Waterloo. The excitement rose as pupils saw the top of the dome of the Cathedral and were eager to go inside and explore.

As we entered the Cathedral we first saw the font. This was bigger than expected and had images of Jesus and Mary with candles for tourists to light in memory of a loved one. Pupils then headed straight down to the crypt to explore some of the art work and exhibitions.

Many pupils were eager to explore the dome so we headed up the many stairs to the whispering gallery. Unfortunately, photos are prohibited but it was an excellent view of the Cathedral and pupils spent some time looking up at the incredible ceiling arts. Some pupils decided to continue the journey to the top of the dome where there were spectacular views of London and we could spot various other historical buildings and monuments.

Once we had explored all areas of the Cathedral we headed out into the gardens for lunch. We then walked across the Millennium bridge (which excited the Harry Potter fans) towards the Tate Modern. Pupils explored some of the incredible exhibitions, a particular favourite was the radio cassette exhibit where all of them were playing different things. We then headed back to the coach and headed home.

It was a fantastic day and the pupils were a real tribute to the school. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it will definitely be something we will offer again.

Mrs Nightingale

Lead Teacher of Philosophical Thinking



World Mental Health Day

'Potential into Performance'

To mark **World Mental Health Day**, our pupils showed their support by wearing **yellow** in aid of the Young Minds charity. The school was flowing with positivity as pupils embraced the theme, wearing as much yellow as they could while raising an **amazing £783** for this worthy cause, which supports the mental health of young people aged 11-16.

Adding to the excitement, a **fantastic team of pupils and staff took part in our annual Bikeathon**, cycling non-stop throughout the day! Congratulations to our winners, Avebury House, for achieving the longest time cycled though all houses demonstrated an incredible display of determination and teamwork!

As part of our ongoing wellbeing focus, pupils also **took time to write Postcards of Positivity**, sharing thoughtful and encouraging messages that will be shared during tutor time wellbeing sessions. Their maturity, kindness and compassion truly reflects what it means to be APS Proud.

Our pupils truly embodied the spirit of APS Proud, showing care, empathy and a deep sense of community throughout the day. Each pupil played their part in making a difference, and together, that is 124 differences made in a single day! What an incredible reminder of the power of kindness and unity within our school community.

Mr Stroud

Teacher of Art and Photography and Co-Head of Avebury House

APS Harvest Collection 2025

Thank you very much for all of the kind donations that we received towards our APS Harvest collection for the Swindon Food Collective. Due to your generosity, the School Council were able to sort and fill 16 crates of donations!

Reward points were given to those pupils who selflessly gave up their own time to help make the collection such a success, displaying APS Proud in the process.



Thank you!

Mrs O'Brien



Christmas Toy Appeal

Following last year's success, APS will be collecting for the Swindon Toy Appeal again this year which is organised by the Gateway Church.

Our Toy Appeal will take place from Monday 17th November to Friday 28th November.

More information will be emailed to parents early November.



Lost Property

A selection of lost property items will be on display in Reception until Friday 7th November.

Please remind your child to check if they have misplaced anything. Any unclaimed items after this date will be disposed of.

Session 6 Enrichment & Lunch Time Clubs

The timetable is updated regularly with amendments and/or cancellations, so please do keep checking our website and social media for any updates. Lunch time sessions are also advertised around the building and on the TV screens in the breakout areas.

Session 6 Timetable – Abbey Park School

At Abbey Park School, we have now published our Session 6 Timetable for Term 2 which provides many opportunities for pupils to extend their school experience and participate in activities from 3.10pm – 4.10pm. Session 6 activities will run **Monday 3rd November – Thursday 18th December.**

Changes to signing-up to session 6 afterschool enrichment clubs:

- **Free clubs** - sign-up for free afterschool clubs has now been added to ePraise. Parents and pupils are both able to sign-up via the ePraise app.
- **Paid for clubs** will continue to be added or remain on Arbor.

Full details of the activities can be found listed below.

Club	Day	Room	Year Group
KS3 Homework Club	Daily	RG21	Y7, 8 & 9
KS4 Homework Club	Daily	RG21	Y10 & 11
Lego club	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	YG87	Sign-up through Miss Keogh. This is the LEGO Robotics Club - pupils will prepare for and enter the First LEGO League Challenge as a team. This involves building a LEGO robot, coding, researching, presenting and a trip in February.
Y7 & 8 Interhouse Netball	Monday	MUGA	Y7 & 8
PAID CLUB: Dance Academy	Monday	Dance Studio	Information emailed separately
All Girls Basketball	Tuesday	Sports Hall	All
Mary Poppins rehearsals	Tuesday	MU2	All - sign-up was made through auditions
Y8 & 9 Swindon Town Football Club training	Tuesday	Football Pitch	Y8 & 9 (max 30)
All Girls Football	Wednesday	Astro	All
Y9, 10 & 11 Boys Basketball	Wednesday	Sports Hall	Y9, 10 & 11
Y7 & 8 Sparx support	Wednesday	RG30	Y7 & 8 (max 30)
Rock School	Wednesday	Music Rooms	All
Y11 Dungeons & Dragons	Wednesday	GG45	Y11 - sign-up through Miss Peele
All Girls Netball	Thursday	MUGA	All
Y7 & 8 Boys Basketball	Thursday	Sports Hall	Y7 & 8
Y9, 10 & 11 Boys Football	Thursday	Astro	Y9, 10 & 11
All Flag Football	Thursday	MUGA	All
Mary Poppins rehearsals	Thursday	MU2	All - sign-up was made through auditions
Bronze/Silver Arts Award	Thursday	Drama Studio	Information emailed separately
Anime & Manga club	Thursday	LRC	All
Spill the Humani-Tea!	Thursday	GF47	Y7, 8 & 9
Choir	Friday	Music Rooms	All

In addition to our afterschool session 6, we also offer lunchtime clubs. No sign up is required, please just turn up if you wish to take part. Below is a selection of the lunchtime clubs on offer:

Day	Club
Monday	Y9 Boys Dodgeball - Gym
	KS4 Volleyball
	Y7 Art club - make a cardboard 3D letter sculpture – BF60
	Open Mic – MU1
Tuesday	All Girls Basketball
	Indoor Table Tennis – Dance Studio
	Outdoor Table Tennis
	Y7-10 Art Club – BF60
Wednesday	KS3 Girls Football
	Outdoor Table Tennis
	Y7-10 Art Club – BF60
Thursday	KS4 All Basketball - Gym
	Outdoor Table Tennis
	Y7-10 Art Club – BF60
	Ukulele Drop-In Clinic – MU3
Friday	KS3 Girls Dodgeball – Gym
	KS3 Boys Badminton



YEAR 7
CHRISTMAS
DISCO

AT 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

MUSIC | DANCING | SNACK SHOP

£3 PER TICKET PURCHASED VIA ARBOR SCHOOL SHOP

BRING MONEY FOR SWEETS AND TREATS!

REWARDS FOR BEST DRESSED!



**REDOAKS & ABBEYPARK
FIREWORKS
DISPLAY**

PRICE PER PERSON - £5.50

0 - 3 YRS - FREE

AVAILABLE ON ARBOR SCHOOL SHOP

WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2025

GATES OPEN 5:30 AND SHOW STARTS 6:30.

Useful Information

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

School uniform Donations

As Y11s move on from our school, we'd be grateful for any outgrown items they 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

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





Safeguarding information

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



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.

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

Contact details:

Please can we ask that you ensure the school has at least two contact details in case of an emergency. Unless there is a court order saying differently both parents should be listed on the contacts. This can be done on Arbor.



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://>



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, Introduction to safeguarding, Careers, Benefits of reading, Mental health day, Black history month, 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)

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.

Attendance matters:

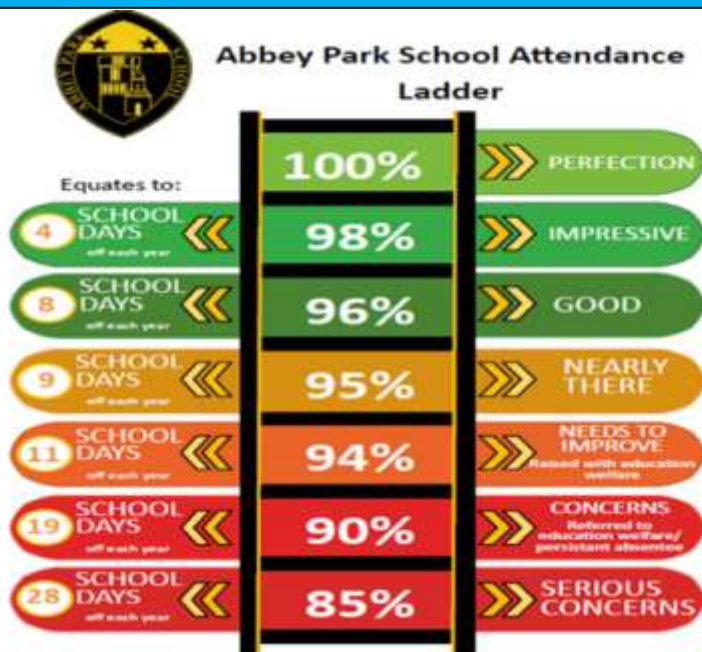
Research shows that there is a direct link between good attendance to school and better outcomes for young adults.

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.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

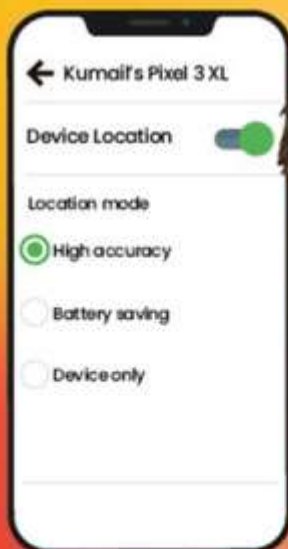


How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS

For PRIVACY Android Phone



The settings on an Android device allow you to set certain rules to help safeguard your child's privacy when they are using it. For example, you can turn off location services to keep their whereabouts private; prevent third-party apps and sites from viewing their information; and stop apps from accessing other functions of the phone (like the camera or microphone, for example). We've produced step-by-step guides on how to tighten up an Android phone's privacy settings.



How to manage location services

- 1 Open the Google Family Link app
- 2 Select your child's account
- 3 On the 'Settings' card, tap 'Manage'
- 4 Tap 'Location'
- 5 On the card with the correct device's name, tap 'Settings'
- 6 Tap 'Location Settings'
- 7 Turn 'Device location' to off
- 8 To reactivate location services in future, repeat these steps and turn 'Device location' back on

How to control access for third-party apps and sites

- 1 Sign in to your Google Families account
- 2 Under 'Members', select your child's name
- 3 Select 'Account info' and then 'More'
- 4 Select 'Third-party apps with account access'
- 5 Turn 'Allow third-party apps to access XX account' to off by toggling the switch

How to manage app permissions

- 1 Open the Google Family Link app
 - 2 Select your child's account
 - 3 On the 'Device' card, tap 'Settings'
 - 4 Tap 'App permissions' then choose a permission
 - 5 Below your child's device, switch the permission off
- Alternatively, you can manage permissions for individual apps. Repeat steps 1 and 2 then:
- 3 On the 'Apps installed' card, tap 'More'
 - 4 On the 'Allowed' list, tap the app you want to change the permissions for
 - 5 Tap 'App permissions'
 - 6 Switch the permission off



Source: <https://families.google.com/familylink/>

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It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech-related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?



What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.



CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes', explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.



Top Tips for Parents



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focused the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they wake up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their Outdoor activities to show your support.

STATISTICS

52% of children aged 3-4 go online for nearly 9hrs a week

82% of children aged 5-7 go online for nearly 9.5hrs a week

93% of children aged 8-11 go online for nearly 13.5hrs a week

99% of children aged 12-15 go online for nearly 20.5hrs a week

Children and Parents Media Use and Attitudes Report 2016

SOURCES: <http://www.independent.co.uk>, Children and Parents' Media Use and Attitudes Report 2016 <http://www.ofcom.gov.uk>, <http://uk.aicommunity.com/news-401-devices-keep-us-addicted-to-our-smartphones>, Journal of Health Studies <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17445019.2014.941386>, University of Leeds <http://commed.leeds.ac.uk/news/white/126/back-of-sleep-disturbing-to-children>

Half-Term Camps & Clubs



OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMP GIRLS RUGBY SESSION



24TH OCTOBER / 10AM-12PM

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT RUGBY CLUB

Inspired by the amazing success of the Red Roses' World Cup victory, **Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club** will host a fun girls' only rugby session during October Half Term.

FIND OUT MORE:

WWW.RWBRFC.CLUB/NEWS/OCTOBER-HALF-TERM-CLINICS

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT RUGBY CLUB HALF TERM RUGBY CAMPS



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE!

Whether you're brand new to the game or already play regularly, our camp is designed for girls aged 11 to 17 of all abilities!

Expect an action-packed morning of fun, friendship, and rugby in a supportive and safe environment.

YOU WILL ENJOY:

- Action-packed sessions full of fun and variety
- Improve fitness, coordination, and rugby skills
- Meet new friends and be part of a welcoming rugby community
- Sessions are open to all abilities - no experience needed!
- Safe, inclusive, and professionally led by qualified coaches

SPACES ARE LIMITED - DON'T MISS OUT!

FIND OUT MORE AND ACCESS THE BOOKING FORM:

WWW.RWBRFC.CLUB/NEWS/OCTOBER-HALF-TERM-CLINICS

Half-Term Camps & Clubs



OCTOBER HALF TERM RUGBY SKILL CLINICS



SCAN THE QR CODE!



23RD-30TH OCTOBER
ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT RUGBY CLUB

Take your game to the elite level
with our specialist half term rugby clinics

Open to boys & girls (U11-U16) of all abilities!

LIMITED SPACES; BOOK EARLY TO AVOID MISSING OUT!

WWW.RWBRFC.CLUB/NEWS/OCTOBER-HALF-TERM-CLINICS

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT RUGBY CLUB HALF TERM RUGBY CAMPS



LED BY EXPERIENCED COACHES FROM:

Royal Wootton Bassett 1st XV Mens
Dorset & Wilts RFU Senior Mens

Gain insight and top-level coaching from those
who've played and coached at the highest levels
of the regional game.

FUN, CHALLENGING SESSIONS FOR ALL ABILITIES:

- Kicking Masterclass - 23rd October
- Game-Based Skills Clinic - 24th October
- Rugby Fitness Session - 28th October
- Tackle + Breakdown Masterclass - 28th October
- Speed + Acceleration Workshop - 29th October
- Catch + Pass Clinic - 30th October
- Wrestling + Grappling Workshop - 30th October

FIND OUT MORE AND ACCESS THE BOOKING FORM:

WWW.RWBRFC.CLUB/NEWS/OCTOBER-HALF-TERM-CLINICS

Term 2 Curriculum Map - KS3

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	Fiction: Beowulf	19th Century Novel: A Christmas Carol	Poetry: War
Maths	Prime factorisation, order of operations, positive and negative numbers	Forming and solving equations and inequalities, linear graphs, accuracy and estimation and ratio review	Algebra review, solving linear simultaneous equations algebraically, linear graphs and angle review
Science	Particles & forces	Periodic Table & digestion	C1 Atomic Structure & Periodic Table
MFL	Spanish: Mi Tiempo Libre French: En classe	Spanish: Todo Sobre Mi Vida French: J'adore les fêtes	Spanish: Oriéntate French: Projets d'avenir
Humanities	Geography: Medieval History and Christianity History: Medieval Britain Philosophical Thinking: Medieval History and Christianity	Geography: History Unit History: The Victorian Age Philosophical Thinking: Victorians	Geography: Living World (AQA Unit) History: Nazi Germany and the Holocaust Philosophical Thinking: Anne Frank
Business Computing	PowerPoint	Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	App Development
Design Technology (DT)	Textiles	Textiles	Textiles
Visual Arts	Jim Dine	Peace Poster	Protest
Performing Arts	Drama: Toyshop Music: Arriba!	Drama: Commedia Dell'Arte Music: Blues/tech	Drama: Devising workshops to explore drama techniques from different stimuli Music: Time Lapse/ Time Lapse sequencing
PE	Basketball, Football, Dance, Badminton, Netball, Handball	Volleyball, Football, Table Tennis, Badminton, Netball, Hockey	Trampoline, Football, Fitness, Badminton, Handball
Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE)	Living in the wider world – developing your own identity	Financial Awareness	CEIAG: Setting goals and employability skills

Term 2 Curriculum Map - KS4

'Potential into Performance'

	Year 10	Year 11
English	Non-fiction Writing: Language Paper 01	Revision for Dec. mocks
Maths	Higher: Solving inequalities, fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio and probability Foundation: Transformations, ratio, data recap	Higher: Surds, iteration and algebraic proof, functions, vectors Foundation: Fractions & decimals, indices and standard form and angle review
Science	P2 Electricity & C4 Chemical Changes	Paper 1 Retrieval & P6 Waves
MFL	Spanish: Viajes French: Mon clan, ma tribu	Spanish: Viajes French: Mon clan, ma tribu
Humanities	Geography: Challenges of Natural Hazards History: Medicine in modern Britain 1900-present, Historic environment – The British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches. Philosophical Thinking: Christian Practices Sociology: Research Methods	Geography: Changing Economic World History: End of the Cold War 1970-91 Philosophical Thinking: Religion, peace and conflict Sociology: Paper 2: Crime and Deviance
Business Computing	1.2 Spotting a business Opportunity	2.2 Making Marketing Decisions
Design Technology / Food	DT: Energy generation & storage. Developments in new materials Food: 3.2.2 Micronutrients 3.2.3 nutrition and health, Food skills	DT: NEA Food: 3.6.2 Food processing and production, Food skills
Visual Arts	Natural Forms Transforming Portraits	Identity Contd. Circles Contd.
Performing Arts	Drama: Component Three Introduction to the play 'DNA' by reading through the script. Music: Melody: melodic movement sequences structure	Drama: Component Two Group pieces monologues/ duologues Music: Listening activities and practice questions and Mock Revision
PE	Basketball Trampoline, Fitness, Football, Handball, Table Tennis, Rugby GCSE: 1.1.c. - Movement Analysis, 1.1.d. – The Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems BTEC: Learning Aim B: Methods of Training Sports Science: R185- Participation & Leadership Topic 1: Key Components of performance Topic 2: Applying practice methods to support and improvement in sporting activity. Sport 2	Basketball Trampoline, Fitness, Football, Handball, Table Tennis, Rugby GCSE: 2.1.c. – Ethical and Socio-Cultural Issues in Physical Activity and Sport 2.2. – Sports Psychology BTEC: Learning Aim C: Review the planning and leading of sports activities. Sports Science: R184 Contemporary Issues Topic : 2: he role of sport in promoting values Topic 3: The implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country
Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE)	RSE: Healthy relationships	RSE: Healthy relationships

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 also 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.

Autumn Break

Monday 27th - Friday 31st October 2025

Return to school (all pupils):

Monday 3rd November - Friday 19th December 2025 (lunchtime finish - 12.30pm)

Inset Days

Thursday 20th & Friday 21st November 2025

Christmas Break

Monday 22nd December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026

Monday 3rd - Tuesday 11th November	Y11 Senior Leadership Team Interviews
Wednesday 5th November	TRIP: Y11 6th form experience day at Lydiard Park Academy
Thursday 6th November	EVENT: Y8 EBP event (whole year group)
Monday 10th November	TRIP: Swindon Young Literature Festival - trip to the Wyvern (am only)
Tuesday 11th & Wednesday 12th November	EVENT: Swindon Young Literature - Author Event
Wednesday 12th November	TRIP: Y9 Humanities to Imperial War Museum
Thursday 13th - Tuesday 25th November	Y11 Mock GCSE exams
Friday 14th November	TRIP: Swindon Young Literature - Book Quiz at The Ridgeway School
Tuesday 18th November	EVENT: Y7 Finance assembly and workshop
Monday 24th November	Immunisations - Flu (whole school)
Wednesday 26th November	TRIP: GCSE Media to BFI, Southbank, London
Thursday 27th November	EVENING EVENT: Y10 Subject Consultation Evening (4-7:30pm)
Wednesday 3rd December	TRIP: GCSE Drama to Witness for the Prosecution, London
Friday 5th December	EVENT: Christmas Toy Appeal
Monday 8th December	TRIP: Y8 to A Christmas Carol, Arts Centre, Swindon
Monday 8th - Thursday 11th December	Well-being week
Wednesday 10th December	TRIP: Y11 GCSE History to Science Museum, London EVENT: Inspire a Generation - whole school (series of events throughout the year) EVENT: G2G speaker EVENT: Christmas Tree Decoration
Thursday 11th December	Immunisations: Flu (catch-up session) EVENT: Music Concert in School
Friday 12th December	TRIP: Y8 to Black Country Museum EVENT: Christmas Jumper Day EVENING EVENT: Y7 School Disco (6-8.30pm)
Tuesday 16th December	EVENT: Character Champion Pizza Party EVENT: Jane Austen Birthday Celebrations EVENING EVENT: Y11 Subject Consultation Evening (4-7:30pm)
Wednesday 17th December	TRIP: Young Carer Christmas Event at The Wyvern Theatre & Kaspers, Swindon (period 4&5)
Thursday 18th December	EVENT: Christmas Market EVENT: Church Concert PM

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Y11 exams

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



Abbey Park School
Terms and Holidays 2025 - 2026



August 2025						
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 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 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	

February 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 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			

May 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

June 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					

July 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		

INSET Days 1st and 2nd September, 20th and 21st November, 23rd February, 1st June, 20th July

Lunchtime Finish 19th December and 17th July

Bank Holidays 2025/26 UK

25 August '25	August Bank Holiday	1 January '26	New Year's Day	4 May '26	Early May Bank Holiday
25 December '25	Christmas Day	3 April '26	Good Friday	25 May '26	Spring Bank Holiday
26 December '25	Boxing Day	6 April '26	Easter Monday		

Our full calendar and more information can be found at www.abbeyparkschool.org.uk