

## Welcome Back to Term 3 and the start of the Spring Terms

I hope you all had a successful and, where possible, a relaxing Christmas break and I welcome you back to school for the start of Term 3. May I wish you a Happy New Year and good luck for 2024.

With the school year divided into 6 terms, spread in pairs over the Winter, Spring and Summer terms, we wave goodbye to the Winter and welcome in the Spring Terms.

With this term being only 2 days old... this week's newsletter is just a welcome back with a few reminders and updates. The first normal newsletter of 2024 will appear next Friday.

## Staff changes

It is with great sadness that we had to say goodbye to Miss Walsh at the end of last term. She has been a true asset for our school for the last 15 years, but has decided to accept a post closer to home. We wish her every happiness and success. Her final role in our school was to cover Mrs Hayward whilst she finished her maternity leave, so they could have an excellent start in Reception. We welcome Mrs Hayward back to ASH on Monday, to join Mrs Newman as the job-share teachers for that class.

Mrs Trill, teaching assistant in 1Elm, will be absent from school for this term and possibly longer as she recovers from her operation. We will cover her duties with staff already in the school.

I am very grateful to the parents who stopped me at the gate to express their gratitude and support for Mrs Farmer, who continues to work tirelessly for her class. I wish Mrs Trill a speedy recovery.

## Reception Places

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 NOW IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS A PLACE IN RECEPTION FOR SEPTEMBER.**

The **deadline** for applications is **next week**. Even if your child is in our Nursery, you still need to apply.

## Runners and Helpers needed for this year's AMBLE

Please make a note of the date - **THE ABBEY MEADS AMBLE '24 - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024.**

There is a poster and more information on Page 2.

## Times of the school day and attendance letters

As part of the government's continued push to return attendance levels to those before the Covid Pandemic (yes school attendance levels have still not recovered!) we will continue to write to families where their child's attendance shows concerns of being too low. Parents choosing to send their children to school for their education, must ensure that they attend. This includes Reception aged children.

Where attendance is likely to be a concern parents may also be asked for a meeting with myself and/or Mrs Cunningham. In some cases there may be unavoidable reasons, such as a period of illness, and attendance data would be improved easily by attending more fully throughout the rest of the year.

Where there are unauthorised absences or patterns of absence appearing, this raises a concern on the system to which we need to make a response.

Please also remember that we open our gates at 8.20am. The school day starts as soon as the children enter the classroom, so those arriving after 8.30am are already behind and missing school. We leave the gates open so parents can leave, not so children can arrive late... please get here on time. From term 4 the gates will close at 8.35am, so if you always arrive at the last minute, please consider your morning routines so you can get here 5 minutes earlier on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Our policy for attendance is on the school website ([link here](#)).

## Dropping off from cars Turning Circle

Just another reminder to move around the circle as far as you can when dropping off.

Stopping halfway simply backs up traffic out on the road. Moving round also narrows

the gap and makes it even safer for your children to get out as no other cars can come past!





**Have you considered Abbey Meads Primary School for your child?**

**Reception Places available NOW and for September 2024**

As a result of our desire to have single age classes, we are in a unique position this year and currently have some space in Reception.

**We are also doing PERSONAL TOURS NOW** for parents seeking a Reception place for **September 2024**

See our website for the most recent Ofsted Inspection 16/17 May 2023  
Please contact us for further information

Hugo Drive Swindon SN25 4GY  
Tel: 01793 723239  
Email: [admin@abbeymeads.bluekitetrust.org](mailto:admin@abbeymeads.bluekitetrust.org)  
Website: [www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk](http://www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk)

The Blue Kite Academy Trust  
d/slexia friendly

**Abbey Meads Community Primary School**

**Time is running out**

- Admissions Deadline approaches
- Reception place for September?



If you have a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, your child is due to start Primary School in September 2024 and you now need to apply for your child's School place. Please note it is your responsibility to apply for a school place for your child.

**Application must be completed and submitted by midnight 15th January 2024.** Link below

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school\\_places\\_and\\_admissions/427/primary\\_school\\_places\\_and\\_admissions](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school_places_and_admissions/427/primary_school_places_and_admissions)

**Even if your child is in our Nursery or has brothers and sisters in the school - you still have to apply.**

This year's Abbey Meads Amble is on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 starting at 11am.

There will be more information, including how to book places, coming out soon.

The cost of the event will be announced once we have considered our costs. We ran at quite a loss last year to launch the event, but hope a small increase in entry fee will be understood and embraced by everyone, so that we have yet another amazing community event - and raise funds for our link schools in The Gambia.

Remember, **it is for all**, as you can walk, run or crawl round the route, so please invite friends and extended family to come and join us. If unable to take part but happy to help, please also let us know, as we will need people to serve drinks, sell food, run stalls & stand on street corners directing runners.

Save it now - 23<sup>rd</sup> March - all morning until 1pm ish ... you know what you'll be doing!!!




**PROJECT GAMBIA**

**The Abbey Meads Amble 2024**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**5K Walk-Jog-Run-Crawl**

When: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 Time: 10am Registrations 11am Start

Come and join us for what is affectionately known as **The Ambler**. One person's sprint is another person's amble. Come and walk, jog, run or even crawl around our specially designed 5K route around Abbey Meads and Seven Fields.

Whether a 20-minute dash or a scenic stroll, 5km is 5km (3.1 miles)! Amble, scramble or ramble your way around and we will celebrate 'finish lines' not 'finish times'... *unless you want to try for one of the fastest age group times!*

**Entry Fee Details to follow**

There will be a medal for all finishers and a Fun Day to follow, with bouncy castles, BBQ, cakes and other refreshments available. All money raised will be going to schools run by Project Gambia Charity. <https://www.projectgambia200.com/>

We sponsor children through a full year of education, in these charity run schools. To provide uniform, food and education for one child it costs just £60.00 a year. We hope each class will sponsor a child, if we raise sufficient funds.  
*(£2.00 from each AMCPs pupil would provide a full year's education for 15 infant children through Project Gambia)*

Find out more about the charity, by visiting this link:  
<https://www.projectgambia200.com/>

