

## Abbey Court MATTERS

Autumn Term 1 2019 Issue 356 Circulation 2112

















#### **Message from the Chair of Governors**

By the time you are reading this newsletter the term will be very much in full swing. Those new items of clothing purchased for the start of the new school year will already be showing signs of wear, simply because children inhabit them. The seasons are changing, with the continuing fall of gloriously coloured leaves and 'yes' they are a pain to clear up or even worse slip and slide on! All these things are signs of life even when that life is really hard.

As Governors, we are all too aware of the struggles that many parents have on a daily basis to keep their children well, focussed for school and yet also have some fun! I think it is because we know of the struggles and because we also know the amazing qualities everyone of these children have, that we as a body simply keep going, trying to make sure the children get the very best. Not only in terms of education but of the environment in which they learn

and, of course, all the other activities that Abbey Court is so famous for.

Some of us were delighted to attend the Church Service at the school to share in the fact that 12 Abbey Court pupils were being invested as Scouts, with their own flag as well. It was such a great time and the Scouts themselves were so excited. Of course, having a Bishop there as well far outweighed the Chair of Governors being there!

Some of you will be new to Abbey Court and we look forward, as Governors, to meeting you in and around the school. We hope your children are settling in and soon feeling that they are part of the Abbey Court family.

Best wishes,

Jean Kerr Chair of Governors

### All Age Worship for Ability and Education Sunday

Abbey Court School were delighted to host a very special community event in the school hall at the primary site on Sunday, 8 September.

The Reverend Nicholas Cooper, Vicar of Frindsbury with Upnor and Chattenden, parishioners, scouts and senior representatives from the Scout Association celebrated Ability and Education Sunday with an All Age Service. This was a recognised Church of England Service approved by the Parochial Church Council and delivered by Simon Burton-Jones, Bishop of Tonbridge and Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester.

Members of the Abbey Court Scout Group were in attendance and had an important role in supporting this event. We were both proud and delighted that during the event, some of them made their Scout Promise to become invested as full member scouts.





## **Farm Update**

#### Things are getting very exciting down on the farm!

We are a few weeks away from the farm being ready for our occupation. G A Harpers Building Contractors have done a great job for us with the building work and we are delighted with the access roadway, paddock and buildings. As I write things are now being "finished off" with all the heavy work completed. We have our first animals; Paddy and Bobby two beautiful rescued donkeys from the Donkey Sanctuary in Devon.

We have appointed two experienced staff, Eve and James to look after the farm and they are busy making contacts, finding suppliers and sourcing animals for us. We are currently working on the rafts of policies and risk assessments that need to be in place to ensure the safety of everyone. Teaching staff are busy writing schemes of work and lesson plans so that the children can get the best education from the new facility and we are excited to be setting up the 'Abbey Court and District Young Farmers Club'.

Although the whole team has done a great job to get the farm to this stage it will be incomplete until we have raised enough funds to build the outdoor classroom in the centre of the farm yard. This will enable the children to use the farm facility comfortably all year round and give us changing rooms and toilets on the farm site. Please do spread the word about the funds we require and have a look at the farm facebook page (click on the facebook button on our website home page www.abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk) for further information. It would be great if you could share this with as many interested people as possible. Donations can be made there too!

We will keep you posted via this newsletter on developments over the coming weeks, as the first part of the project is completed.

My thanks to everyone who has helped to make this exciting, unique and special facility possible and to Lee Davey Caravans in Harrietsham for their support.

**Karen Joy** Headteacher





We are delighted to have updated and redesigned our hydropool sensory lights over the summer holidays.

Hydro swim at Abbey Court School is one of the pupils' favourite activities. Some pupils will learn how to swim and gain confidence in the pool but for other pupils it is their moment to feel freedom of movement that is not always possible on land.

The sensory lights provide visual lighting effects which provides the children with a sensory atmosphere which overall has a huge positive effect to their swim and development. Pupils feel more relaxed, more alert and happy.

A hydrotherapy pool is an extremely tactile experience but with the addition of sensory equipment, can create an amazing multi-sensory resource.



"I like coming to school because of swimming" results of pupil





fascinated by the lights and encouraged the lesson content"



With the addition of the new equipment, we have created a fully functioning sensory pool with colour wash lighting projection effects, a bubble maker, LED clouds and sound, resulting in an engaging and relaxing area.

Abbey Court worked alongside Mike Ayres Design, who has 40 years of expertise building sensory rooms and pools all over Europe and the UK. We were able to plan and design a specific sensory environment that meets the needs of all of our pupils. We have installed equipment that will benefit the pupils learning, development and engagement.

Since returning to school from the summer break, teachers have been trained in how to use the equipment and have used it in every hydropool session. Staff have commented on how relaxed pupils are and the enjoyment pupils are showing within this new environment.

We are so thankful to **The Wooden Spoon, The Lawson Trust, Richard Watts Charities and The Abbey Court School Trust** for their support and financial commitment to this project costing £50,248.50, without which it would not have been possible.



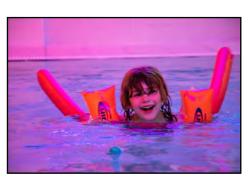






school

Abbey Court



Abbey

at

Thank you letter from Charlotte and Freddie in Secondary 2.

love's the equipment











We have been thrilled to take delivery of a purpose built, made to order, accessible minibus to join the Abbey Court fleet of vehicles. Replacing vehicles as they age is obviously important but reliability at a school such as ours is of utmost importance.

Our school vehicles are used daily and our new minibus is already proving invaluable in getting our pupils out on educational visits to shops, garden centres, off-site swimming, country parks and Forest School trips etc which are all hugely valuable in enriching the curriculum.

In addition, to numerous visits to other locations being able to provide transport between the two sites means many more students can benefit from the facilities which we do not have on both sites for example the hydropool and 'Tonto' our horse riding simulator.

Soon trips will also include visits to our developing school farm where students will be able to pet and learn about various farm animals and for some students there will be the opportunity to gain some work experience. None of which could happen if we didn't have the appropriate transport to get the pupils to the right location. Therefore, we are extremely pleased and eternally grateful to have been awarded the funding to purchase this vehicle costing £32,480, from **The True Colours Trust, The Bernard Sunley**Charitable Foundation, The Percy Bilton Charity and The Abbey Court School Trust.



#### Abbey Court School's Rural Activities Centre, Larkin Farm is now on facebook!

Just click on the facebook button at the top of our website home page:-

#### www.abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk

This page is specifically limited to the Rural Activities Centre and will help to keep you up-to-date with developments as they happen. It will also help us reach a wider audience and assist with fundraising for the centre so please tell your family and friends and anyone you know that would have an interest.

#### **Abbey Court School Trust**



The first draw, of the new academic year, took place on Friday, 27 September at the primary site.

Karen Joy, Headteacher, was present to oversee events but Lia had the important job of drawing the winning balls!

The first prize of £40 went to Bruce Rose, the second of £20 to Beverley Martin and the third of £10 to Veronica Kitney.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has renewed their tickets for a third year and purchased additional numbers. We wish all participants the best of luck for the next draw which will take place on Friday, 18 October.



## It is now even easier for everyone to participate in the Abbey Court School Trust Lottery!

Why not give friends and family, the gift that keeps giving all year, a **Gift Voucher** for The Abbey Court School Trust Lottery. It would make a perfect Christmas or Birthday gift for your loved ones. If you would like to purchase Gift Vouchers please contact the School Office on 01634 338220.

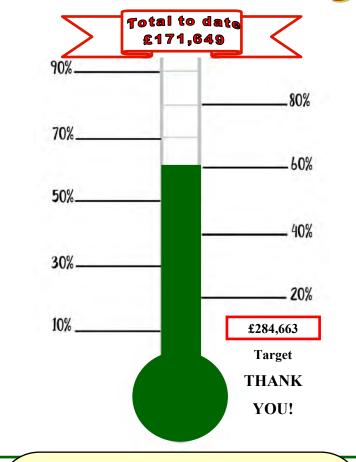
We are holding a 'Trust Fund Raising Night' on Friday, 24 January 2020 at the Cliffe Road site.

Our last Pig Race Night was such a success and so much fun that we have decided to hold another! This

promises to be a fun filled night, suitable for all the family.



# Rural Activity Centre Phase 2 Fundraising



The Trust now has a **kindlink** account where you can make on-line donations:

 $\frac{\text{https://www.kindlink.com/charity/abbey-court-school-trust/}}{\text{profile}}$ 

A festive idea for fundraising, rather than sending or receiving Christmas cards why not ask family and friends to donate to Abbey Court School Trust.

We are currently fundraising for Phase 2 of the Rural Activity Centre.

Amazon - Do you buy items from Amazon? If so, you can help us by signing up to Amazon Smile. Just go onto smile.amazon.co.uk and choose Abbey Court School as your charity. Then click onto smile.amazon.co.uk each time you order (there are prompts when you go to the website). We will then receive a donation from Amazon based on the amount purchased through this scheme. It couldn't be easier!

Foundation and Key Stage 1 have been very busy learning about Brazil. The pupils looked at a globe and map to see where it is in the world. They all made something to bring along to shared snack time in the hall along with an interesting fact about Brazil too. Snacks included fruit smoothies made with passion fruit and mangos, rice and avocados. They also shared lots of pictures of Brazilian foods.

A member of staff played a drum song from Brazil and talked about the drums.

The pupils brought along some beautiful masks, hats and flags they had made. The also decorated their tables with bunting and decorations they had made.









#### Some of the interesting facts about Brazil were:

Portuguese is spoken in Brazil and 'ola' means 'hello'. December is the hottest month. Football is the most popular sport.



#### Pupils have lots of fun at play and lunchtimes in Foundation and Key Stage 1. They can choose between a range of clubs throughout the week. One of their favourite times, was playing outdoors exploring the wind using different materials such as paper, kites, paper aeroplanes and streamers.



## Foundation & Key Stage 1







They have also been really busy, writing and practicing their find motor skills. They used paintbrushes and water, chalks, easel and pens and a range of finger pattern finders.

They enjoyed going out in the rain as although it has been wet it was still warm. They used umbrellas and splashed in the puddles and felt the rain on their faces. It really has been such great fun!





## Reception

This term, Reception Class have been learning all about our bodies. One of the favourite stories we shared was 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' which made some of us giggle as the adults made silly faces and moved in unusual ways to highlight each feature in the story!

We looked closely at our own features, creating prints with our hands and feet and drew around our hands. We learnt to look at the marks we can make. We listened very carefully too as we sung the song, learning to point to each part of our body.

We used technology to explore changing our appearance in photographs, controlling a cause and effect program.

We also made choices to design our own Mr Potato Head, distinguishing between features to add to our character.





#### Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Head, shoulders, Knees and toes, Knees and toes. Head, shoulders, Knees and toes, Knees and toes.





And eyes and ears,
And mouth,
And nose.
Head, shoulders,
Knees and toes,
Knees and toes.







## **Primary 1**





Primary 1 have been learning about 'Under the Sea' this term! We went on our first educational visit to Dillywood Garden Centre and enjoyed looking around at all the fish. We really like the big Koi Carp in the pond outside!

Primary 1 have worked really hard on learning how to walk to the bus, waiting in line for our friends to get on and stepping up onto the bus. We have also been to Morrisons, and will be going to Broomhill Park and Rochester Castle!











We have been learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and 'up, up and away' this term. We have also been developing new friendships.















As part of our topic, 'Volcanoes', we have been experimenting with a variety of different materials to create a volcano and produce lava!

In Science we have been using paper mache to mould a volcano. In Design and Technology we have melted crayons to create lava pictures which we were really excited about! Lastly, to help us remember key terminology such as "active", "dormant" and "lava" we have been performing actions in dance.













Key Stage 2 took part in a 'Mystery Day' this term. Katie the cow was stolen by a mysterious thief. The pupils in Key Stage 2 watched the CCTV footage to see what the thief had got up to in school. Not only had the thief stolen the cow but then decided to run around the school corridors with her!

The pupils were presented with clues about where the cow was hidden and who had taken it. Each class worked as a team to solve the clues. This included activities such as making wanted posters, letter searches around the school and exploring sensory letters. The pupils searched high and low for Katie and eventually found her in the Nursery shed. What a relief! As for the thief, she was caught and it turned out to be one of our very own teachers! We are glad Katie is safe and back where she belongs.



## Secondary 1

Secondary 1 have been working really hard at home and in school.

We all brought in photographs of our families to make family trees in class. We cut out our own trees and then stuck our family photographs on them to show who we live with and how all our families are different.

Well done Class!





## **Secondary 3**

Secondary 3's first educational visit of the school year was to visit a local fruit orchard.

When we arrived we were greeted by the farmer whose name was Jasper. Jasper made us feel very welcome and said we could pick as much fruit as we liked! There were lots of rows of trees and when we looked closer they were full of great big juicy pears!







We really enjoyed picking the pears. We brought lots back to school. We shared some with our friends for their snack and we also made a Chocolate and Pear Upside Down Cake. It was delicious!

When we were at the farm we also made a new friend. Her name was Maggie and she is a miniature pony!



### **Secondary 4**









The students collected some leaves and looked at the different shapes and colours. They used them for inspiration to write a poem and to create an autumn design. They chose the symbols they wanted to use for their poems including colours and how they feel about autumn. These have been displayed in class.

#### **Further Education**







#### On Wednesday, 9 October, the whole of FE took part in a Healthy Living Day.

They experienced a variety of different activities all thinking about the ways in which we can keep ourselves fit and healthy. Just a few examples included some groups focussing on exercise, learning to dance in different ways and to different styles of music, and then creating and following their own fitness plans using the indoor gym equipment we have at school.

Others looked at different foods, and making choices to ensure that we eat a healthy and balanced diet.

Lastly, they learnt about some key hygiene routines, such as teeth brushing, and why it is so important that we look after our teeth. Everyone was really engaged and benefitted from focusing on this very important area for a whole day. Well done FE!











**Day 1** - We packed our rucksacks, luggage and camping equipment on the minibus. We enjoyed meeting our Duke of Edinburgh Leader, Malcolm. He was very interesting and he taught us how to read our maps as we walked around the woods. We then went on our bus and arrived at Lower Grange Farm and set up our tents. We made our supper outside in the rain!

**Day 2** - Next morning, we had breakfast and washed up outside. We drove to Pinetum at Bedgebury. Reading our maps, we went off. We walked and walked for 3 1/4 miles.

**Day 3** - After making our breakfast, we packed up and took down our tents. Back to School. Wow we did it! We all really enjoyed it and felt very proud of ourselves!



Welcome to our new pupils. It has been wonderful to see how well they are all settling in!

















## congratulations!

We would like to congratulate Lewis Charlton on achieving Qualified Teacher Status and

Lucy Graham, Teaching Assistant, in Primary 10, for passing her apprenticeship.



#### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMNTS



Many congratulations to Lynsey Cook and her husband on the birth of their son, Robert Andrew, on 1 August 2019, weighing 8lbs.

We are also pleased to announce the safe arrival of Lewis and Evelyn Charlton's daughter, Blythe, on 20 September 2019, weighing 7lbs 80zs.

Double congratulations go to Jon Evans and his wife on the birth of their twin boys, Daniel and James!



We would like to extend a warm welcome to and introduce some new staff members to the Abbey Court Team.



Eve Kryger is our new Farm Manager. Eve has worked on commercial farms with livestock for 20 years, after falling in love with a cow at

the school she attended when she was 12! Eve has also been involved with 'Young Farmers' from the age of 12 and is currently the Chief Sheep Steward at the Kent County Show. In her spare time, Eve enjoys spending time with her husband and dog.



James Manvell is our new Farm Assistant.

James has a Level 3

Extended Diploma in Agriculture which he gained at Hadlow

College, which he left just over a year ago. Since then he has been working on a farm in Longfield. James spends most of his spare time with SWAN Young Farmers in Ashford which he has been a part of for 4 years. He also enjoys playing the guitar!



Sara Whillans is Primary 2's new Teacher.

Sara trained in Scotland to become a Teacher and previously taught in

mainstream for 2 years. Sara worked with children with additional needs as a summer job which inspired her to change from mainstream to teaching children with additional needs. In her free time, she loves to go on adventures and explore new places.



Claire Wilson is Primary 4's new Teacher.

Prior to working here, Claire worked in a local mainstream school

for 16 years both in the role of class teacher and SENDCO. She is passionate about supporting children with additional needs to learn and grow. In her spare time, Claire loves spending time with her husband and 2 children and singing!



Chantay White is
Primary J's new
Teacher. Chantay
studied to become a
primary school teacher
at Greenwich
university. She

previously taught a Year 4 class at a school in Gravesend. Chantay has just purchased her first house and is hoping to develop her DIY skills! However, her passion is cooking and she enjoys exploring new recipes! Her favourite dish to cook is Harissa Prawn Pasta with Garlic Bread.



Suzie Delaney is Primary 8's new Teacher.

She has previously worked in a mainstream secondary school

teaching English, and prior to that spent 2 years working in a local special school. Suzie recently got married and in her free time enjoys swimming and walking her 2 dogs. She is passionate and excited to begin her career at Abbey Court.



Demelza Frazer has been appointed as a Teacher and will be providing PPA cover. She has previously worked within the NHS for over 7

years. She trained as a Science
Teacher in a mainstream grammar
school. Demelza worked for a year
as a Special Needs Teaching
Assistant where she gained vital
experience working with Special
Needs and is happy to become part of
the Abbey Court Team.



Julía Hardíng has been appointed as an EAL Support Assistant.

Julía trained as a teacher of English

in the Ukraine and has experience of teaching English and Russian to children and adults not native speakers of these languages. She also speaks Ukrainian and some German and is a qualified interpreter.



Cinzia Selfhas joined Primary 3 as a Teaching Assistant. Cinzia is from Italy and moved to the UK.5 years ago. In Italy, she studied Health and

Social Care and has recently graduated in Early Childhood and Special Education. She has previously worked in care homes for adults and children with learning disabilities and in summer camps for primary school children. Her hobby is playing percussion especially West African Drums.



Cara Parsons has joined Primary 6 as a Teaching Assistant.

Cara previously completed a placement at Abbey

Court as part of her degree in Early Childhood Studies. She enjoyed it so much that when she finished university she decided to apply! In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Cara is looking forward to becoming part of the Abbey Court Team.



Alíson Hale has joined Primary 10 as a Teaching Assistant.

Previously she

worked in an accountants and then a mainstream primary school, before having her daughter who is now 4 years old. In her spare time, Alison enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Natalie Banks has joined Secondary 2 as a Teaching Assistant.

Natalie has worked in 'Care' for 13 years and has

previous experience of working with adults with learning difficulties. She enjoys spending her free time with her family, especially at the ice rink, as her 8 year old son plays ice hockey for the 'Invicta Buckaroos/ Invicta Wild'!



Susan Alvares has joined Secondary 5 as a Teaching Assistant.

Susan has been working with children for 30 years in various different settings,

from nurseries to schools and is really enjoying working at Abbey Court.

In her spare time, she enjoys dancing, cooking, baking and spending time with her family and friends. Susan has two children aged 24 and 13 years old.



IVI Sintal has joined
FE1 as a Teaching
Assistant. IVI
previously worked for
16 years as a
Teaching Assistant in

a Special Needs School in Chislehurst. She is married and has a daughter who is currently at university. Ivi is originally from Estonia but has lived in the UK for over 20 years. She loves art and in her free time makes felted pictures and fused glass works.



Jon Evans has joined FE2 as a Teaching Assistant.

Jon lives in Cliffe where he enjoys taking his dog Betty, a Boston Terrier, for

walks. Jon and his wife have recently become the proud new parents of twin boys! Previously Jon has been a foster carer and has worked in the community and at a short breaks unit. He enjoys travelling and has backpacked around India, Brazil and Israel.



Kiera Daulby has joined FE3 as a Teaching Assistant. Kiera describes

herself as a 'sporty person' and loves

football and used to play for Gillingham Football Club.

Kiera is from a military background and is very close to her family. She spends as much of her spare time as possible travelling to see her brothers and nieces.



Laura Colley is the new Catering Assistant at the Primary site.

Previous to this Laura worked for an agency in schools catering.

Laura has 2 children, ages 7 and 8.

In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and spending time with her family.



## Safeguarding - Online Safety

When used properly the internet is a wonderfully positive tool for children and young people. However, we all know there are risks involved. Therefore, it is important to ensure all young people are equipped with the knowledge and skills to be able to navigate the online environment safely and responsibly; and that those who support children ie parents and carers are also equipped to do so.

Thinkuknow is the education programme of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre aimed at young people and encourages safe and responsible use of the internet. It is based around 3 key themes: how to have fun, how to stay in control (or how to take control) and how to report a problem.

Please visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk for further information and resources.



We would like to thank Robert Warburton and his colleagues at BritNed Ltd who raised £1,150 by having a charity Golf Day for Abbey Court. This was matched funded via Benevity bringing the total to £2,300! We are always grateful to receive donations that help us provide the children with additional, specialist resources to enhance their educational experiences.

We would also like to thank William Giles
Accountants who, year after year, audit our
Voluntary Fund Accounts free of charge. This act of
kindness is greatly appreciated.

We are looking for donations of adult size t-shirts, shirts or aprons which are no longer wanted and could be used for art overalls or as lunchtime aprons please.

Any donations gratefully received.



The hydropool has been available 100% of the time in Term 1!



We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the Abbey Court School Smartie Challenge. We are delighted to report that you raised an impressive £781.50.

The monies raised will go towards the farm.

#### **Term Dates**

Last day of term: -

Friday, 18 October 2019

**Autumn Break: -**

Monday, 21 October to Friday, 25 October 2019

**INSET Day** 

Monday, 28 October 2019

Children return to school:-

Tuesday, 29 October 2019



illness to others.

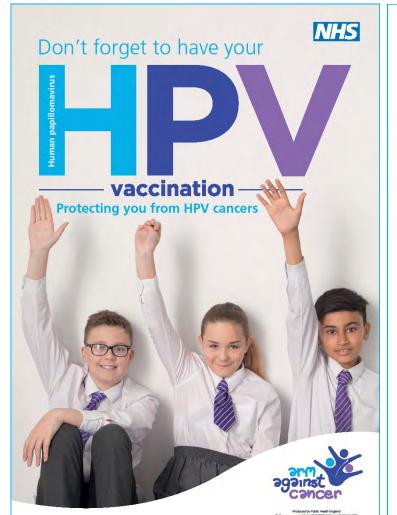
For more information contact your local

GP surgery or visit: www.nhs.uk/mmr

initial symptoms.

mmunisation







Please register for the Open Mornings by telephoning
the Office on
01892 782025
The Mount Camphill Community
Faircrouch Lane, Wadhurst, East Sussex, TN5 6PT
www.mountcamphill.org
email: office@mountcamphill.org

## Siblings' Page

#### Have some fun with our farm animal themed wordsearch!

J	Α	Z	V	Α	N	R	С	Т	Ι	G	С	R	F	K
K	Т	U	В	D	М	L	0	Α	S	D	Н	Р	Χ	D
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### **Words List**

COW
HORSE
GOAT
DUCK
GOOSE
CHICKEN
ROOSTER
CHICK
PIG
DONKEY
SHEEP



