



Abercrombie Primary School and Nursery Newsletter



Abercrombie Primary School, Higher Albert Street, Chesterfield, S41 7QE

Email: headteacher@abercrombie.derbyshire.sch.uk Tel: 01246-232425

Newsletter 1 8th September 2026

Please read the important information contained in this newsletter.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to Abercrombie Primary School and Nursery. It has been wonderful to see our Abercrombie family together again as we begin another exciting academic year. A special welcome also goes to all of the new children and families joining our school community today. We are delighted to welcome children into our Nursery and Reception classes, as well as several new pupils across other year groups. We hope you will all be very happy here at Abercrombie. Thank you for ensuring that your child has everything they need for school, including named uniform, book bags, water bottles and lunch bags. This really does make a huge difference to the smooth running of the school day. Please could I also remind you to make sure that *all* items are clearly named, including shoes and plimsolls.

Our school website contains a wealth of useful information, including key dates and upcoming events. Each class teacher also has a dedicated class page where you can find important information such as homework, PE days, class letters and other updates. We will be holding our annual **Meet the Teacher** events shortly, and the dates can be found on our website. If you are unable to attend, please do not worry. All of the information shared will be available on the class pages and will also be emailed to parents and carers. Nursery and Reception classes have already held their meetings, so there will be no further sessions for these year groups.

If you have any questions or concerns, I am usually available on the playground each morning and would be happy to help. Alternatively, you can contact me via email at headteacher@abercrombie.derbyshire.sch.uk. Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who kindly sent cards and gifts to members of staff. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated, and on behalf of everyone at Abercrombie, thank you for your kindness.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead and to working together to support your children in achieving their very best.

Very best wishes, Mrs Tracy Gannon (Headteacher)

Who Works Where?



Class	Teacher	Teaching Assistant	SEND TA
Nursery	Mrs Goodwin	Mrs Thompson	Miss Wagstaff
Reception	Mrs Roberts	Miss Panayiota	Mrs Wagstaff, Mrs Simcoe
Year 1	Miss Smith	Mrs Miller/Mrs Tozzi	Ms Emson, Mrs Paddison
Year 2	Mrs Dobson/ Miss Hambidge	Mrs Skinner	
Year 3	Mrs Johnson/Ms Surtees	Ms Burton	Ms Emson, Mrs Moran
Year 4	Mr Himsworth	Mrs Downing	
Year 5	Mrs Wright	Mrs Riley	Mr Goodall, Mrs Moran
Year 6	Mr Rickels	Mrs Gratton	Mrs Ashley

The School Day

Please remember that the start and finish times of our school day.

We open the gates for children at 8.30am and KS2 children are allowed onto the MUGA from this time. Nursery and Infant children should arrive with an adult and be taken to their relevant meeting point. Nursery children should be taken to their entrance and Infant children should wait with parents on the Infant playground at 8.40am. It is important that all children arrive on time to ensure there is no loss of learning. The register will be taken at 8.50am prompt and we kindly request that your child arrives by 8.45am at the latest.

Children who arrive after the register closes will be marked as late. Parents/Carers are requested to bring their child to the main entrance to sign them in.

We follow a traffic light system for attendance. This is so we can alert you if we see your child's attendance dropping. We will then work with you to try to increase attendance or help with lateness.

School finishes at 3.15pm for Infant children and 3.20pm for Junior children. Parents/Carers should wait outside their child's classroom at the end of the day. Children collected late will be taken to the office in the main entrance where a member of the office staff will call you. It is important that you collect your child on time as this can cause distress if you are late at pick up.

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 **only** can walk home independently and only if a school permission letter has been signed. These are available at the school office.

Medicines in School

Medical Needs

It is recognised that many children will need to take medicines during the day at some time during their journey through school. This will usually be for a short period only, perhaps to finish a course of antibiotics or to apply a lotion. To allow children to do this, will minimise the time they need to be absent.

Taking Medicines

To help avoid unnecessary taking of medicines at school, parents should be aware that a three time’s daily dosage can usually be spaced evenly throughout the day and does not necessarily have to be taken at lunchtime. Medicines could be taken in the morning, straight after school and at bedtime.

Prescribed Medicines

Medicines should only be taken to school when essential i.e. four times daily. Medicines must be provided in the original named container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescribers instructions for administration.

The school cannot accept medicines that have been taken out of the container as originally dispensed, where the prescribed name differs from the child’s name or make changes to dosages on parental instructions.

Non-Prescription Medicines

Non-prescription medicines are those that can readily be bought ‘over the counter’. It is recognised that certain children may need to take non-prescription medicine for conditions such as dysmenorrhea (period pains).

The medicine should be in its original container and clearly state what it is and the maximum dose and dose frequency.

Staff will not administer aspirin or medicines containing ibuprofen to any child unless it has been prescribed.

The school will not administer any medication without the necessary paperwork being completed, by the parent/carer, at the school office. Please note there is no legal duty for school staff to administer medication, however we have members of staff who have kindly volunteered to do so.



Appointments in School Time

We kindly request that you to send us evidence of any appointments your child needs to attend e.g. doctor, dentist, optician etc. We are happy to see evidence in the form of a text, an appointment card or a letter. Please bring the evidence in person to the school office OR email it to Mrs McDermott at office@abercrombie.derbyshire.sch.uk Although we understand it isn't always possible to make medical and dental appointments outside of the school day, we strongly encourage you to try your best. Thank You for your support.

School Rules

Pride in their appearance helps pupils to have pride in themselves. We would like to remind parents of our Uniform Policy. We do hold some second hand uniform and so if you are struggling to provide a uniform please let the school office know and we will help where possible. Uniform can be purchased from all major supermarkets too and these are reasonably priced.

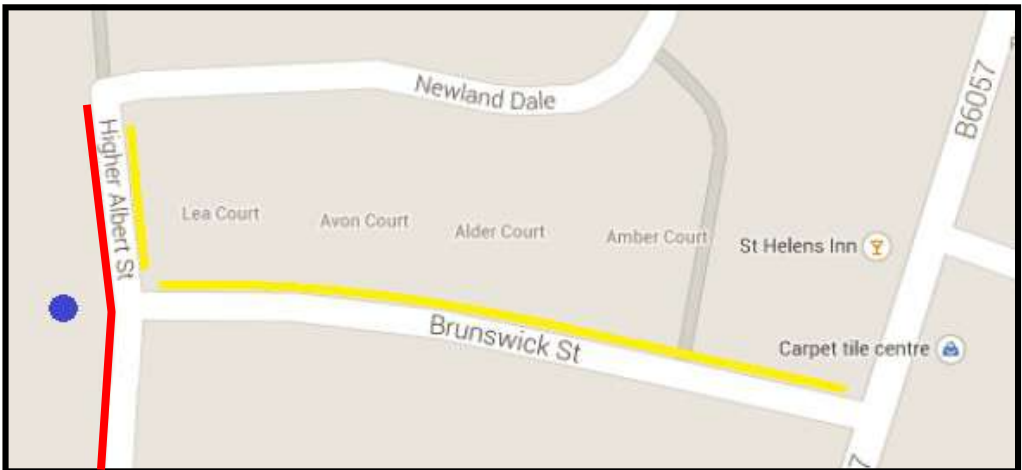
- Hair** - Long hair should be tied back. Hair accessories should be minimal and preferably in school colours. Hair should be kept out of children’s eyes using headbands, clips and slides; again preferably using school colours. During term time, pupils are not allowed hairstyles which include: shaved, dyed or streaked hair, beading, patterns, mohawks, lines and tramlines.
- Jewellery, Make-up and Nails** - The wearing of jewellery, except for plain stud earrings and watches, is not allowed on safety grounds. Jewellery MUST be removed before children take part in physical education or undertake any physical activities. Pupils are not allowed to wear make-up or false nails to school. False nails are inappropriate and unnecessary as pupils are often required to engage in practical activities and the nails could pose a safety issue.
- Shoes** - Black school shoes or black trainers may be worn as long as these are plain e.g. no bright soles or stripes. High heels or flip flop style shoes may not be worn due to health and safety.

Boys	Girls
White Shirt or Polo Shirt	White Blouse or Polo Shirt
Royal Blue Jumper / Sweatshirt	Royal blue Cardigan or Jumper
Grey Trousers / Shorts	Grey Skirt / Pinafore or Trousers
Grey/Black Socks	Blue Summer Dress
Black School Shoes	White / Grey Socks or Tights
	Black School Shoes

Alternatively, school uniform is available from the school supplier. Orders are placed online at: <https://uniformshoponline.co.uk/collections/abercrombie-primary-school>
*please note that Abercrombie Uniform does not require to have the school logo on it

PARKING

I would like to remind everyone about the parking regulations around our school. On one side of Higher Albert Street parking is for Permit Holders ONLY. This means that you can ONLY park there if you have a Resident Parking Permit Band C. Blue Badge Holders are NOT allowed to park in this area without a permit. On the other side of Higher Albert street, you are allowed to park for up to 2 hours. On Brunswick Street, you can also park for 2 hours. PLEASE NEVER PARK ON DOUBLE YELLOW LINES AROUND/NEAR TO THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE (even if you are a Blue Badge Holder). DOING SO IS DANGEROUS AND POSES A POTENTIAL RISK TO THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN! We have had some very near misses in the past due to dangerous parking. Please note that parents and carers must not drive into the school grounds during drop off and pick up. Thank You.



Blue spot indicates Abercrombie School. The yellow highlighted area is where parking is permitted. The red highlighted area is residential / permits parking ONLY.



Arbor is our school management system and is used for a wide variety of things. Please check that you have registered on the Arbor Parent Portal and downloaded the Arbor App.

- It allows you to edit your child's contact details, medical details etc.
- You can check your child's attendance, including their average attendance for the year so far.
- Consent and make payment for any trips.
- Book your child's Breakfast Club and After School Care places.
- Make payments for your child's school meals (Junior Children).
- Send the school office a message, e.g. if your child is going to be off ill.
- School will send communication through emails and the school app.
- If your child pays for lunches please also ensure that your child's dinner money account is topped up before their first day in school.

School Meals

We would like to remind you that the cost of a school dinner is **£3.25**.

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free meals (Government Funded)

Breakfast and After School Care

Reminder that 'Breakfast Club' and or 'After School Care' session are booked through Arbor.

Please note that there are different booking choices for each 'Breakfast Club' and 'After School Care'.

- Early Risers is Breakfast Club, 7:30am = £4.50
- Breakfast Club, 7:45am = £4.00
- After School Care, 4:30pm finish = £4.50
- After School Care, 5:30pm finish = £8

School Soap

We now have new school soap that is for sensitive skin and is vegan friendly.

Please only send soap or handwash for your child if they have a medical condition such as eczema or dermatitis or need a special cream prescribed by a doctor.



Star of the Week Assembly

We are very pleased to announce that Star of the Week will continue this term on a Friday morning at 9am. Teachers choose one or two children per week who have worked exceptionally hard in something or achieved something wonderful! Parents and Carers will be very welcome to attend the assembly should their child be selected for an award. For those of you who have never attended, we contact parents on the Wednesday before via email to invite you to join us. If you are unable to attend then please feel free to invite another relative to attend. We look forward to welcoming you back in.

School Library

The school library plays a crucial role in fostering a love for reading among our children, offering a welcoming space where they can explore a wide range of books tailored to all ages and interests.

With an extensive collection of both fiction and non-fiction books, the library provides opportunities for children to discover new genres, learn about different subjects, and develop their imaginations.

Encouraging reading for pleasure is essential, as it not only enhances their literacy skills but also supports their emotional growth.

To facilitate this, the school library is open on Friday mornings before school, allowing parents/children to borrow books to take home. This is open from 8.15am. We really hope you come along with your child on a Friday to have a look at what is on offer.

Abercrombie Primary School and Nursery is a **NO NUTS** School



Nut Allergies

Please could all parents be extra vigilant when sending in food from home. We have both children and staff with severe nut allergies and so because of this we are a 'Nut Free' School. Children who bring in packed lunches from home should not be given any nuts or foods which contain nuts e.g. Chocolate Spread (hazelnuts), Peanut Butter, Chocolate bars with nuts in e.g. Snickers. School staff will check lunchboxes daily to ensure that we keep all children/staff with allergies safe in our school. All our classrooms and general areas will now display a Nut Free Poster as a continually reminder of the importance of following this.

School Website and App

Within the next week or two we will have a brand new website and school app.

School Website

All letters are placed on the school app and website (Newsletters or Class Page Tabs), as well as emailed out to you through Arbor. We have a very detailed website and this is updated on a regular basis so that all pages are current. You will also find features such as class pages, policies and a gallery section to name a few.

Please check the Diary Dates' section for parents, so you can be kept informed regarding what's happening when.

If you have not yet visited our website, then please go to **www.abercrombie.derbyshire.sch.uk**.

School App

At the moment we use School Jotter 2. However this will soon be changing to School Jotter 3.

Our school app enables parents/carers up-to-date with what is happening in school. This is just one of our methods of communicating with you, although we also use Facebook and Arbortoo.



To download the app onto your mobile device or tablet, search for **School Jotter** in your App Store and click to download it. When opening the app for the first time, search and select our school 'Abercrombie Primary School'.

You can also sync our school calendar with your mobile, this means you won't miss anything that might be happening for your child/ren.

If anyone has any issues accessing the School Jotter App, please see Mrs McDermott in the school office, who is happy to help.

Arbor

Arbor is our school management system and is used for a wide verity of things. Please check that you have registered on the Arbor Parent Portal and downloaded the Arbor App.

- It allows you to edit your child's contact details, medical details etc.
- You can check your child's attendance, including their average attendance for the year so far.
- Book your consultation appointment (twice yearly).
- Consent and make payment for any trips.
- Book your child's Breakfast Club and After School Care places.
- Make payments for your child's school meals (Junior Children).
- Send the school office a message, e.g. if your child is going to be off ill.
- School will send communication through emails and the school app.
- If your child pays for lunches please also ensure that your child's dinner money account is topped up before their first day in school.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Social Media

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to bring to your attention some ongoing concerns regarding the use of social media and messaging apps outside of school hours.

Over the past year, a number of incidents involving the misuse of group chats and social media platforms have had a significant impact on some of our pupils, particularly those in Years 5 and 6. These incidents have involved inappropriate messages, images, videos and comments shared between children, often outside of school hours but resulting in upset, friendship issues, anxiety and disruption to learning during the school day.

Many children are accessing platforms such as WhatsApp, Snapchat and other social media services. Whilst these apps can be useful for communication, they can also expose children to content, conversations and situations that are not appropriate for their age. Most social media platforms set a minimum age of 13, and some services have higher age requirements. Parents and carers are encouraged to check the age restrictions of any apps their child uses and ensure they are suitable. ([nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)), ([nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk))

As a school, we teach online safety regularly through our curriculum and assemblies, and we are committed to helping children understand how to stay safe online. However, we are unable to monitor or regulate children's online activity outside of school. We therefore rely on parents and carers to ensure that children are using devices and online services safely and appropriately at home.

We kindly ask that you:

- Regularly check your child's devices and the apps they are using.
- Monitor group chats and social media activity.
- Discuss appropriate online behaviour and digital responsibility with your child.
- Encourage your child to speak to you immediately if they receive upsetting, inappropriate or worrying messages, images or videos.
- Review privacy and parental control settings on any devices or apps your child uses.
- Consider carefully whether your child needs access to group chats involving other children.

Government guidance and online safety organisations continue to stress the importance of active parental involvement in children's digital lives, including regular conversations about online safety, monitoring usage and setting clear boundaries around social media and messaging apps. ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)), ([nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk))

At Abercrombie Primary School, we strongly advise parents and carers to remove or closely supervise group chats involving other children where concerns have arisen. Whilst we will always support children in understanding respectful behaviour and safe online practices, matters arising from children's online activity outside school hours remain the responsibility of parents and carers to manage.

The online world can be challenging to navigate, and we know that many families welcome guidance in this area. We would therefore like to sign-post you to **Purple Mash's "Parenting in a Digital World"** resources, available within the Parents and Home Support section of their website.

You can also find a range of useful information on our school website under **Parent Information Online Safety**, including guidance on:

- Keeping children safe online
- Setting parental controls and privacy settings
- Reporting harmful or offensive content
- Age guidance for apps and social media platforms

By working together, we can help ensure that all children develop safe, positive and responsible online habits.

Thank you for your continued support.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are pleased to invite you to a coffee morning in our school hall on:

Friday 26th September 2026 at 9am until 10am

(Donations of cakes would be greatly appreciated)

Lets do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.



A Note on Behaviour at Abercrombie Primary

At Abercrombie, we are proud of the way our children conduct themselves both in and out of the classroom. Visitors often comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere across the school - and rightly so. Our pupils show genuine enthusiasm for learning and a growing sense of responsibility for their own progress.

Ofsted recently recognised this in their inspection, noting:

"Pupils' behaviour and attitudes to learning are positive. Pupils are motivated and ready to learn. They understand the strategies in place to help them. For instance, they use classroom displays to remind them about the important knowledge they need to be able to check their work and make it even better. Pupils rarely need reminders from staff to concentrate well. The school is a calm and studious place to learn."

Of course, children are still learning how to navigate friendships, emotions, and social boundaries. At times, they may face challenges with peers - that's part of growing up. What matters is how we support them through these moments. Our staff are committed to modelling respectful relationships, encouraging reflection, and helping children develop the tools they need to resolve conflicts and build empathy.

We believe that behaviour is a shared responsibility, and we're grateful for the partnership we have with parents in reinforcing the values we hold dear. Together, we continue to nurture a school culture where every child feels safe, supported, and inspired to be their best.

Behaviour: Rewards and sanctions

▣ **Star of the Week**

Each week class teachers select a "Star of the Week" to celebrate a child who has stood out for their effort, kindness, or behaviour. These stars are awarded a special certificate during our Monday "Star Assembly." Children are also rewarded with a special party table at lunchtime. If your child is chosen, you'll receive an email so you can share in the celebration too! This is always sent out to you on a Thursday.

▣ **Daily Rewards & Dojo Points**

Children earn stickers and other small rewards throughout the week for showing positive behaviour. They also receive 3 Dojo points each day for following our school's 3 Golden Rules. These points help reinforce the values we expect across the school.

However, if a child doesn't follow the Golden Rules, they may lose a Dojo point. At the end of each half term, children who have kept most of their Dojo points will be invited to take part in a special reward activity - a fun way to celebrate their efforts! Mrs Gannon/Mrs Dobson monitor closely the loss of Dojo's each week.

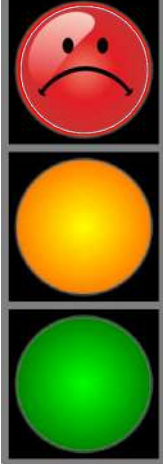
▣ **Supporting Individual Needs**

We understand that every child is unique. If your child is finding it difficult to follow the school rules, we may create a personalised behaviour support plan to help them succeed. This would always be discussed with you first, so we can work together to support your child in the best way possible.



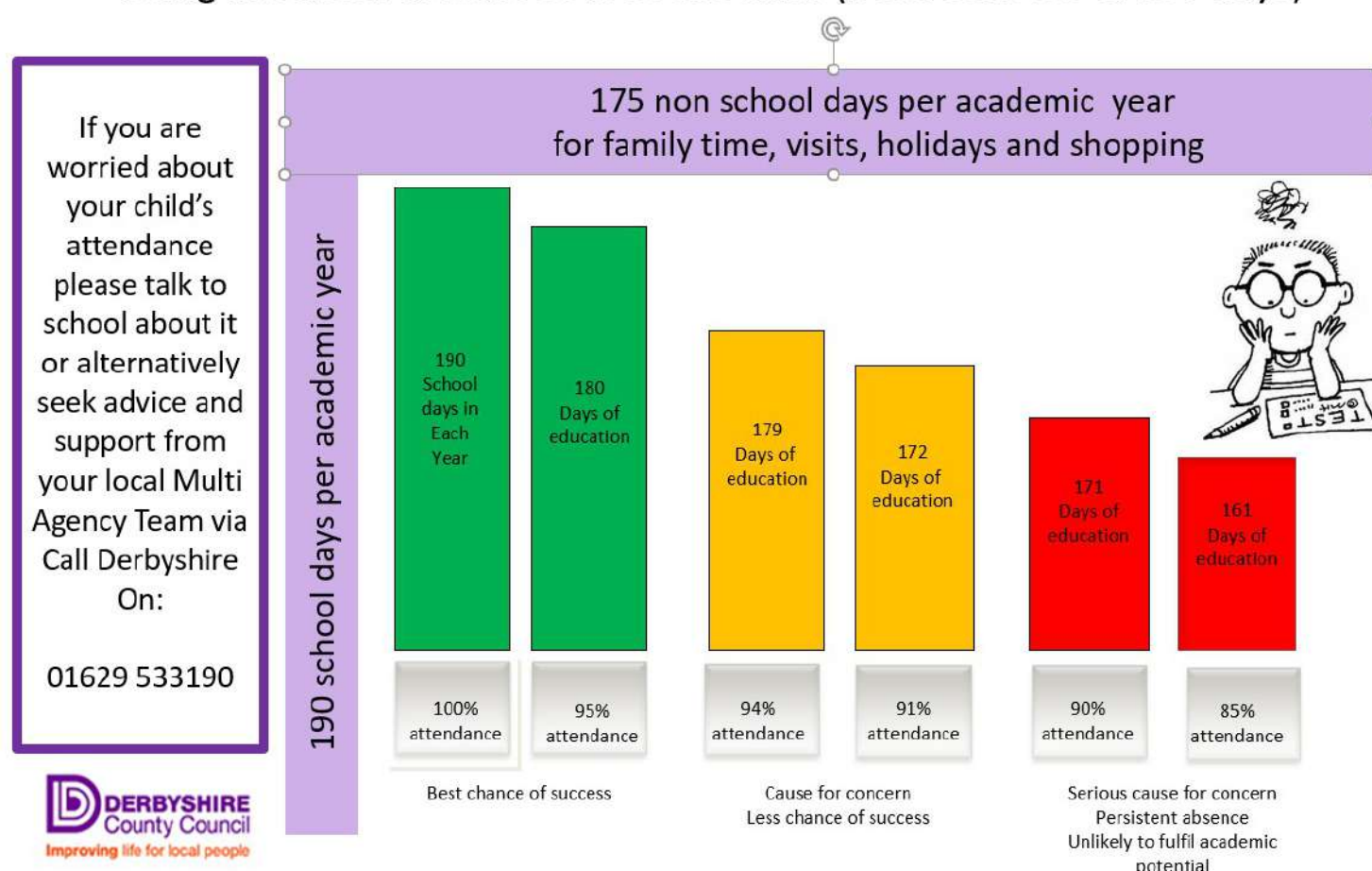
Attendance Traffic Light System

To help keep you informed of your child's attendance at school and help you understand about what is expected of your child's attendance, we follow the 'traffic light system' for monitoring attendance.

	Attendance Above 96% = Green Safety Zone The government expects attendance to be 96% or above. It's fantastic if your child is in the green.
	Attendance Between 90 and 95.9% = Amber at Risk Zone This is considered to be the "at risk zone". If your child is in the amber, your child's attendance is below the standard set by the government. As a school, we will look at ways to support you in improving your child's attendance; this may be through • meeting with you to put together an attendance contract • monitoring your child's attendance over a 4 week period. • discussing your child's attendance with the Local Authority Education Welfare Officer.
	Attendance below 90% = Red Danger Zone Your child's attendance is a concern and it will be closely monitored along with any absences. Where attendance has become a real concern the Educational Welfare Officer may need to become involved; it will be difficult for these children to overcome gaps in their learning (unless attendance improves), causing them problems in the future. We may request that all absences will need to be substantiated with medical evidence, eg, doctor's letter, appointment card etc, unless circumstances are exceptional.

Good Attendance Means

being in school at least 95% of the time (between 180 & 190 days)



Meet the Teacher

Parents are invited to attend our **"Meet the Teacher"** sessions. These informal meetings will take place in your child's classroom and provide an opportunity to meet their teacher and learn more about the year ahead.

All sessions will begin at **3:30pm** and will last approximately **30-45 minutes**.

- **Wednesday 9th September** - Year 3
- **Thursday 10th September** - Year 5
- **Tuesday 15th September** - Year 6
- **Wednesday 16th September** - Years 1 and 2
- **Thursday 17th September** - Year 4

**YOU'RE INVITED TO
FRIENDS OF ABERCROMBIE**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

DATE: Tuesday 15th September
TIME: 3:30pm
LOCATION: Staffroom

WHO ARE WE?
Friends of Abercrombie is a dedicated group of staff and parents who volunteer and work extremely hard for your children and school.

WHY ATTEND?
Without this group, we wouldn't be able to offer your children the great opportunities they experience. We need your help to keep this vital group alive! Everyone is welcome.

ELECTIONS
We will be electing the following key roles:

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

**ABERCROMBIE PRIMARY
SCHOOL AND NURSERY**

**FRIENDS OF ABERCROMBIE
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY**
Charity IP-1192577