School Update

Bourne Abbey CofE Primary Academy

Friday 16th January 2026

Abbey Academies Trust

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another busy and exciting time in school, filled with creativity, curiosity and memorable learning experiences. From fairy tale mysteries and royal celebrations to inspiring author workshops and hands-on outdoor learning, our children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm. This newsletter offers just a snapshot of the fantastic learning taking place across the school and the joy our pupils bring to each day.

The Case of the Twisted Fairy Tales






Year 3 were amazed to arrive at school and find their area wrapped in police tape. A message from Lincolnshire Police explained there had been a disturbance overnight, with plenty of evidence left behind—but no suspects. The children eagerly became detectives, exploring the scene and spotting familiar clues: Little Red Riding Hood's cloak, breadcrumbs, a sweet-filled house, jellybeans, cinnamon, gingerbread men and more.



It soon became clear this was no ordinary crime scene, it was a Fairy Tale mystery! Mischievous characters had escaped their stories and caused chaos. From Snow White being turned into a frog to the Big Bad Wolf losing his tail, the children pieced together what had happened.

Now the big question remains… who are the police looking for? And with fingerprints everywhere, could the children themselves be suspects?





Learning Through Rhyme and Play



Reception children enjoyed learning the nursery rhyme *Pussycat, Pussycat*. They discussed favourite rhymes they already know before learning the new rhyme together, using actions to support memory and build confidence.

The children loved performing the rhyme for one another and retelling it independently using stick puppets and sequencing cards in provision. These activities helped to develop speaking, listening and early storytelling skills.

Year 6 Virtual Author Workshop with Katherine Rundell



Last week, our Year 6 pupils were lucky to take part in a virtual author workshop with award-winning writer Katherine Rundell, hosted by the British Library. Katherine spoke enthusiastically about what inspires her to write, sharing how ideas grow from imagination, curiosity and a love of adventure.

The children were especially fascinated to hear about her book *Impossible Creatures*, learning how she creates exciting worlds and uses maps to help plan her stories and guide the reader through new lands. Pupils enjoyed seeing how an author develops characters, settings and plot, and how careful planning can bring a story to life. The session was inspiring and motivating, encouraging our young writers to be creative, brave with their ideas and to enjoy storytelling even more.

A Royally Good Time



Reception launched their new topic ‘A Royally Good Time’ with their Royal Day on Tuesday. Children came to school in their fanciest or most regal clothes; made crowns; used royal court vocabulary (‘Good morning, Your Majesty!’) and finished the day with a spectacular Royal Ball. This generated lots of excitement for all our learning about kings, queens, castles and London this term.





Growing Our Own Woodland



On Tuesday, our school community was brightened by a wonderful act of generosity from Aveland Trees. As part of our ongoing work towards renewing our Eco-Schools Green Flag, our Eco Warriors asked Hugh and Joe Dorrington of Aveland Trees if they might donate a small number of trees to support wildlife on our school field. We were absolutely delighted when they not only agreed, but generously donated and planted over 200 British native saplings.



Hugh Dorrington and his wife spent several hours planting the trees before our Eco Warriors joined them to add the tree guards and learn about the different species now taking root. The children loved working together and asking questions, and it was fantastic to see their enthusiasm for caring for the environment.



This new woodland will be a lasting legacy for our pupils, providing opportunities for outdoor learning, forest school activities and meaningful connections with nature for many years to come. We are incredibly grateful to Aveland Trees for helping us create a space that will enrich our curriculum and support the wellbeing and curiosity of our children.

Winter Wonderland in Abbey Ark









The children in Abbey Ark have delved into our Wonderful Winter topic this week, exploring the changing weather and noticing clear signs of the season such as frosty mornings and colder days. The children have been developing their understanding of seasonal changes, using descriptive language to talk about what they observe, and enjoying some frosty walks outdoors. These experiences have encouraged curiosity, independence, and meaningful conversations, helping to bring our winter learning to life.

The children also thoroughly enjoyed making mince pies, which provided a fantastic hands-on and sensory learning opportunity. They explored a range of smells, textures, and tastes, helping to build confidence and curiosity when experiencing new things. Through this activity, the children practised important skills such as measuring, mixing, and following instructions, and best of all, they got to enjoy tasting their delicious creations!

Unicef

Following your feedback on the parental questionnaire, each week from now on we will be including a summary of one of the articles (children's rights) as outlined in the UNCRC. Where better to start than from the very beginning, number 1? The convention in full is quite wordy, but as you'll see from the pictures below, there is a summary definition that we then condense further into child-friendly language. The icons are also designed to support children in recognising and remembering their rights. We hope you enjoy learning more about why we are so enthusiastic about being a Rights Respecting School!

ARTICLE 1 (definition of the child)
Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.



Attendance

Now that Christmas has passed and the weather remains cold, families may be considering taking a holiday during the coming months.

We would like to remind parents and carers that, in line with Lincolnshire Local Authority guidance and current legislation, schools are unable to authorise holidays during term time. Leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and any such request must be made in advance of the proposed absence.

Parents and carers are therefore asked to check the published school term dates, which can be found on the school's website, carefully when making holiday arrangements. Unauthorised absence may result in further action being taken in accordance with Local Authority procedures.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring good attendance.

Upcoming dates:

Monday 19th January – Y5 Online Safety Workshops

Wednesday 21st January – PTFA Uniform Sale 3.15pm-3.45pm

Thursday 22nd January – Y3 Starbooks Reading Café 8.45am-9.15am

Tuesday 27th January – Family Learning Workshop for Reception Parents 9.15am-1215pm (Please see parent mail for information on booking this event)

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership with our school. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and staff, and we look forward to sharing many more exciting learning moments with you in the weeks ahead.

Kindest regards,

Anna Petrie
Head of School
Bourne Abbey CofE Primary Academy