School Update

Bourne Abbey CofE Primary Academy

Friday 23rd January 2026

Abbey Academies Trust

Dear Parents/Carers

It's been a lovely week of learning across the school, with children enjoying some truly exciting experiences. From Year 6 stepping into the rainforest with a real-life explorer to younger pupils discovering toys from the past and famous London landmarks, there's been lots of enthusiasm and curiosity on display. We hope you enjoy reading about what the children have been up to.

Year 6 Rainforest Explorer Experience – Tales from the Treetops



On Thursday 15th and Friday 16th January, Year 6 welcomed explorer Simon Ward from The Explorer Academy as part of their rainforest topic, *Tales from the Treetops*. Simon immediately captivated the children by sharing photos and videos from his real-life rainforest expeditions, including his recent travels to Ecuador, where he combined exploration with filmmaking.



Throughout the morning, the children explored key geographical features of rainforests, such as their global locations, tropical climates, layers and rich plant life. A particular highlight was Simon's drone footage, which allowed pupils to virtually journey through the four layers of the rainforest and observe the animals and plants found in each one.

Later, pupils examined the specialist clothing and equipment needed for a modern-day expedition and used a green screen to feel fully immersed in the experience. Simon also discussed the challenges explorers face and shared fascinating insights into rainforest wildlife and animal adaptations. The children applied their learning by designing their own rainforest animals before learning about indigenous tribes and the impact of deforestation.



The Explorer Workshop was a fantastic way to bring *Tales from the Treetops* to life, and Year 6 are now looking forward to using their new knowledge to write non-chronological reports about rainforest animals.



History of Toys in Year 1



This week, Year One continued their learning about toys from the past as part of our *Treasured Toys* topic. The children explored key vocabulary linked to timelines and learned what the word *decade* means. They then examined pictures of toys from different decades, with many children delighted to recognise toys that their parents still own. The children selected their favourite toy, identified the decade it came from, discussed how it worked and what it was made from, and finally wrote about what they liked most about it.

An Inspiring Visit from Olympian Joe Roebuck



We were delighted to welcome Joe Roebuck, an Inspire+ Sport Ambassador, to our school this week. Joe visited to lead a KS2 assembly focused on what makes an elite athlete. Joe is a Commonwealth Games medallist and proudly represented Great Britain at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

During the assembly, the children explored the qualities that help people to be successful. It was great to see our children make meaningful links between success and our Christian Values, particularly Perseverance and Joy, as well as our Character Education quality of self-belief. The children discussed how these values can help them overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

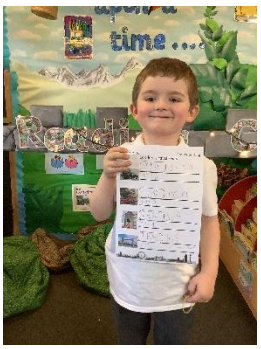


The children also experienced the mental strength required to be an elite athlete when they were challenged to hold a squat for one minute. They explored the social skills needed and the obstacles they may need to overcome along the way.

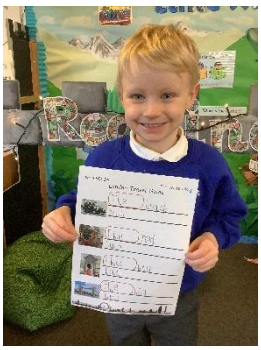


A highlight of the assembly was seeing our own Young Ambassadors take part in a burpees challenge at the end, showing great enthusiasm and teamwork. Overall, the children showed great excitement and interest, and we are very grateful to Joe for taking the time to visit and inspire our children.

London Landmarks



Reception have been talking about London landmarks this week. The children know that London is the capital city of England. We used Google maps to look at Big Ben, the Shard, the London Eye, Buckingham Palace and the Gherkin. The children were invited to draw buildings with chalk outside on the playground. Many of the children chose to draw their favourite London landmark. Then the children have been using their fabulous phonics knowledge to write labels for different London landmarks. The children have really enjoyed learning and writing about London landmarks.



Sports Ambassador Training



Last week, our Year 5 and 6 Sports Ambassadors took part in a training event alongside pupils from other local primary schools. The session was delivered as part of the inspire+ Young Ambassador programme, which is designed to equip pupils with the skills and confidence to become positive leaders within school sport and physical activity.



During the training, the children developed key leadership skills and explored how they can support PE leads, promote and help run clubs, and celebrate team achievements. Young Ambassadors also learned about their role in organising and supporting events such as assemblies and Mini Olympics, giving them valuable experience in communication, planning and teamwork. We are very proud of how enthusiastically our Sports Ambassadors represented the school and look forward to seeing them put their new skills into action.





Unicef



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

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 2 (non-discrimination)
The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

Reminder: Primary School Admissions for September 2026

Parents and carers of children born **between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022** are reminded that applications for **primary and infant school places** open on **17 November 2025** and close on **15 January 2026**. Please note that parent portal is still open at present for applications.

Lincolnshire residents must apply through **Lincolnshire County Council**, even if choosing schools in other areas.

How to Apply:

- Online at: **www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions**

- For support or a paper/telephone application, call **01522 782030**

Helpful Information:

- You may list **up to three schools** in preference order.
- Check each school's admissions criteria and visit open days where possible.
- Make sure you apply using your **current home address**.
- If your child has an **EHCP**, your caseworker will contact you separately.

If you need help with your application, contact the **School Admissions Team** at: **schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk** or **01522 782030**.

Upcoming dates:

Tuesday 27th January 9.15am-12.15pm – Family Learning Workshop for Reception Parents (Please see parent mail for information on booking this event)

Tuesday 3rd February - 8.45am-9.15am – Year 1 Starbooks Reading Café

Wednesday 4th February 3.40pm – 6.30pm – Parent Consultations and Book Fayre in KS2 Hall

Thursday 5th February 3.40pm – 6.30pm – Parent Consultations and Book Fayre in KS2 Hall

As always, thank you for being such a supportive school community. We hope you enjoy hearing about the children's learning and have a great weekend.

Kindest regards,



Anna Petrie
Head of School
Bourne Abbey CofE Primary Academy