School Update

Bourne Abbey CofE Primary Academy

Friday 9th January 2026

Abbey Academies Trust

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year, and welcome to the first school newsletter of 2026! It has been wonderful to welcome pupils back this week and see our school come alive after the Christmas break. As we begin this new year together, we look forward to the opportunities ahead and to continuing our strong partnership with you in supporting your children's learning and growth.

Christian Value for Term 3

Our Christian Value for this term is **Courage** and our focus Bible story is **The story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)**

The Bible tells us God promises to give us the strength and courage we need to face difficult or challenging situations. Courage and perseverance go hand in hand. Courage guides us and our actions. We encourage our pupils to find the courage to use their voice, to ask big questions, to stand their ground and to try things that are out of their usual comfort zone. The word courage comes from the French word for heart. Take heart is another way of saying be courageous. We teach our pupils that being courageous doesn't mean that you aren't scared. We look to the Bible and to history for stories of courageous people who have been scared, but they stood up for what was right anyway. In the book of Joshua, it says 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go'. Jesus often said to people 'Don't be afraid'. That sentence turns up 365 times in the Bible! We teach our pupils that the Christian worldview is that when things seem difficult and hard they can rely on God to strengthen their courage.

Treasured Toys in Year 1



To introduce the new topic, **Treasured Toys,** Year 1 began with a special *Bring a Toy to School* day. The children were excited to share their chosen toy and confidently talked about why it was special to them. They explored the materials their toys were made from, discussed how they worked and identified the type of toy it was. The children thoroughly enjoyed playing with their toys and sharing them with their peers, developing their speaking and listening skills as well as learning to take turns and show respect for one another's belongings. Fabulous start to your topic Year 1!

London's Burning… Fetch the Engines!





Year 2 had a fantastic time stepping back to 1666 during the Great Fire of London Experience Day. The children enjoyed a range of exciting activities that really brought their history learning to life! In the hall, the children took part in a drama and dance workshop where they acted out the events of the Great Fire and explored how it spread through London. Back in the classrooms, they made salt dough bakery items for their role play areas, drew Tudor houses for our classroom displays and even wrote with quills to experience what writing was like in the past!



A big thank you to our parents and carers for dressing the children in such wonderful costumes – it really helped make the day extra special. What an enjoyable and memorable day of learning!









Leafing a Legacy

Yesterday, our Eco Warriors met to discuss an exciting event taking place at school next week. We are delighted to share that Aveland Trees Ltd, based in Dunsby, have very generously donated their time and a significant number of trees to help us plant a small copse at the end of our school field. This project forms part of our long-term sustainability plans and our commitment to supporting local wildlife. Watch this space for updates on our new trees next week!



A Bioluminescent Beginning to English in Year 5







Year 5 launched their new English topic in truly spectacular style this week with an unforgettable immersive “hook” inspired by *Avatar* and the moon of Pandora.

The children boarded their very own hovercraft and travelled to the moon of Pandora, where they experienced a virtual reality tour, soaring across the landscape on the back of a mystical Avatar creature. Awe and excitement filled the room, with one pupil from 5D declaring, *“English is so cool!”*

Their journey continued as they were transported into a transformed space within school, where Pandora came to life through bioluminescence. Pulsing plants glowed, shimmering spores floated through the air, rocks and streams glistened with light, trees appeared to dance, leaves whispered and mysterious creatures trilled around them. The atmosphere sparked curiosity, imagination and wonder.



Back in the classroom, the children drew on their past learning to collect rich, high-quality vocabulary and craft powerful sentences using figurative language and vivid description. This exciting experience will support their high-value writing target: creating an evocative setting description of Pandora.

A magical start to an inspiring unit of English learning!





Upcoming dates:

Tuesday 13th January – Royal Day in Reception

Thursday 15th January & Friday 16th January – Y6 Rainforest Workshops

Monday 19th January – Y5 Online Safety Workshops

Wow, what a busy start to term. It is a joy to see our children embracing new challenges with confidence, creativity and enthusiasm across all areas of school life. We wish you a restful weekend and look forward to another week of learning, growth and courage together.

Kindest regards,



Anna Petrie
Head of School
Bourne Abbey CofE Primary Academy