



# Abbots Farm Junior School

## Prospectus 2026

*Learners for Life*  
*Farmers Forever*

### Welcome to Abbots Farm Junior School

Whether you are joining us during the academic year or at the start of the junior school journey, a warm welcome awaits you when you arrive at our school. A happy start is important for all of us and we try very hard to make the transition smooth and rewarding. We encourage parents and children to visit the school during a normal working day to see the happy and caring ethos of the school in action.



Our school motto is **“Learners for Life, Farmers Forever”** and this ethos drives everything that we do for the children here at Abbots Farm Junior School. It is underpinned by our trauma-informed, relational approach where building relationships is everyone’s business and everyone’s first priority. We are a close-knit, friendly school community with incredible pupils and fabulous parents and carers who are all a vital part of our FABULOUS FARMERS FAMILY. We pride ourselves on providing a broad and balanced education in a caring, inclusive environment which respects and nurtures all members of our school community. Our staff are a cohesive and highly experienced team who work together to provide the very best learning opportunities for all pupils and create the “Farmers Forever” moments that our children and their families will always remember.



## Our School Facilities

We are very lucky to have a lovely school building with excellent facilities and extensive school grounds. We have a spacious playground and a huge school field for the children to use for playtime and also during their PE lessons.



We also have a wildlife area, our own school pond, a greenhouse and raised beds for growing fruit and vegetables, a chicken coop and an outside forest classroom space. We utilise our amazing school grounds as much as possible to extend learning outside of the classroom and to promote outdoor play and exploration too.



In recent years, we have welcomed a new member of the team to our school – Chase the school dog! He and his handlers in school have been assessed and trained through the Dog Mentor Programme, which has been going for over 10 years. Chase supports pupils with their self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and to engage in their learning. Having a school dog is a key part of developing pupils educationally, emotionally and socially by providing children positive experiences with dogs. You can find out more about Chase on our school website by clicking [this link](#).

**The Dog Mentor  
Affiliated School**



The school building has eight classrooms and each year group has dedicated space outside their classroom for small group work too. In addition, we have an SEND classroom (The Den), a smaller therapeutic space for 1:1 pastoral work (The Nest) and a sensory room (The Burrow). Children are also lucky enough to have a library, the quad outdoor classroom, a cookery room which can accommodate up to half a class at once and the Studio, where they attend art and music lessons. Before and after school, The Studio is the home of 'Kidzone', which is our before and after school club.



We are also hoping to have a new Family Room build over the summer at the front of school, where our Children and Families lead will be based so that they are always close at hand to make a cup of tea or some toast for anyone - adult or child - needing a chat or a bit of extra help. During this work, we will also be hoping to renovate the reception foyer to be a more welcoming, comfortable space for visitors when they first arrive at AFJS.



We have a large main hall which is used as the main event space for whole school events, class assemblies etc but is also used weekly for PE sessions and as our dining room. Our catering department cooks meals on the premises and children can purchase a hot meal or bring packed lunches each day.

The school is divided into houses (Kestrels, Ospreys and Eagles) which are led by house captains and house ambassadors. The children undertake a variety of house competitions and earn house points which lead to a trophy being presented each term.



## Parent Partnerships

We welcome parents and carers into school, as key partners in the education of their children. We try to offer many opportunities for parents to join us in the school year as we are a family-centred school. Parent consultation evenings, information evenings, sports events, class assemblies, open afternoons, PTA events, performances at Christmas and the Year 6 Leavers' play are just some of the opportunities available to share in your child's experiences at Abbots Farm.

### Parent – Teacher Partnership

Education is undoubtedly a partnership between parents and teachers. We welcome and encourage parents taking interest in school life and activities. Contact between school and home is considered important to ensure that children achieve their best. For this reason, a system of formal opportunities for consultation with parents is in operation. Parent-teacher consultations are held twice a year. Mid-Year Reviews are completed at the half-way stage of the year to jointly assess pupils progress with a full detailed written report given at the end of the academic year. However, parents should not feel restricted to discussing their child's progress only at these times. The Headteacher and staff are always ready to hear about any issues parents may have and are willing to help if they can.

### Communication with parents/carers

The school communicates with parents/carers in various ways via emails, monthly newsletters, social media, questionnaires and general information letters. Information is also placed on our website [www.abbotsfarm.co.uk](http://www.abbotsfarm.co.uk). The website offers additional information and guidance on supporting your children with their learning, opportunity for sharing celebrations and a wider range of general resources. You can also give us a follow [on Facebook](#) and/or [on Instagram](#). To help you work out the best person to contact with a query, click [here](#) to see our School Communication Flowchart. However, if you are ever unsure, just have a chat with the ladies in the office and they will direct you to the best available person to help.



### Parent Teacher Association

The PTA is made up of parents, carers, staff and governors of the school who provide invaluable support to the school in organising many events. The money raised provides extra facilities and equipment for the pupils. They hold regular meetings and if you are interested in becoming an active member or just helping out occasionally then they would love to hear from you. The PTA needs parental support to continue to enrich your children's lives during their time at our school.

### Governors

Another way that parents can become more involved with the school is through the governing body. The Governing Body of the school consists of people from a variety of backgrounds, who are elected, nominated or co-opted and are a representative of parents and teachers, the Local Education Authority and the local community. School governors work with the Headteacher and are responsible for setting the

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Lynne is one of our co-chairs. She is now retired from a long-standing teaching career, which saw her take on a number of different roles, including her final years being spent at AFJS. She is now enjoying retirement and being 'Nanny daycare' for a growing number of grandchildren. Lynne joined the Governing Body to continue her Farmers Forever experience.</p> | <p>Deb has been a governor for 15 years both at Abbots Farm Infant and Junior School. She originally joined as a parent governor to give back to the school community for the incredible start they had given to her children. She is now Joint Chair and still enjoys supporting and being part of the Abbots Farm family.</p>                 | <p>Lauren has served as a co-opted governor since autumn 2024 and is a parent at the school. She writes in higher education and is interested in students' educational outcomes and achievements as well as student well-being. She is particularly drawn to data and metrics that can help support and understand student populations.</p> |
| <p>Lisa is a secondary school teacher and has been a governor at AFJS for many years. She has found the role to be rewarding and particularly enjoys working alongside fellow board members who each bring unique skills and perspectives to effectively challenge, support, and monitor the school's performance.</p>                                                       | <p><b>Meet our Governors!</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Denise, or Mrs Beech as many of you will know her, is our staff governor and has been on the board for many years. She has a wealth of teaching experience and a particular interest in PE, sport and physical activity.</p>                                                                                                             |
| <p>Aisha is a parent governor who has had 2 children that are Farmers Forever, 1 who is a current Farmer and 1 more 'future Farmer' who will be joining us next year. She makes a financial contribution on behalf of the board but has also enjoyed starting to look at curriculum alongside more experienced governors this year.</p>                                      | <p>Amy is a relatively new member of the Governing board. She works as a consultant lawyer specialising in dispute resolution, bringing many years of professional experience to the role. Amy is keen to bring a fresh perspective to the Board, drawing on both her legal expertise and her experience as a mother of two young children.</p> | <p><b>Could this one be you?</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |


strategic direction of the school. Meetings are held at least once a term and committees meet in addition to the main full governors' meeting.

We do currently have some vacancies for new Governors and we will send out more information on this in September, but if you are interested and would like a conversation before then, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we can tell you more.

## **Complaints**

Hopefully, our open-door approach to parents means that you always feel you can come and talk to one of us in the event of any questions or concerns. While we hope that all complaints can be dealt with by the school, it is important that parents feel they have somewhere else to take their concerns if ever things don't go quite right. To facilitate this if ever needed, the school has adopted the Warwickshire County Council formal complaints procedure. Details of this can be found on our school website in our complaints policy <https://abbotsfarm.co.uk/key-information/policies/>. The policy asks that you first contact the school with any concerns and we have our School Communication Flowchart in place as a guide to who you need to speak to, but the staff in the office will always endeavour to help you as best they can to find the right person to help. If you are then still unsatisfied with the outcome, the policy explains that the next steps.

## **The School Day**

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                      |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8.40 – 8.50   | The gates are opened for children to go straight to their classrooms.<br>All children need to be in school before the <b>8:50am bell</b> is rung. 'Start of the Day' activities are completed in classrooms during this time. |  |
| 8.50 – 9.05   | Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                      |
| 9.05 – 12.00  | Morning lessons (Children get a 15 minute mid-morning break, which is at 10:35 for year 3)                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                      |
| 11.50 - 12.50 | Lunchtime for year 3 (We stagger lunches during this time to avoid congestion, with year 4 at 12:00, year 5 at 12:20 and year 6 at 12:20)                                                                                     |                                                                                      |
| 1.00 – 3.20   | Registration and afternoon lessons                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                      |

A member of staff will open the gates at **8:40am**. No child should be on the premises before 8.40am (unless attending Kidzone or an organised breakfast club) and all pupils should have left the school premises by **3.35pm** at the end of the school day (again, unless attending Kidzone or an organised after-school activity). We are not legally responsible or insured for your children before or after these times unless they have been allocated a space in one of the clubs taking part before or after school. We must strictly abide by our school insurance restrictions. If it is felt necessary, we may contact the Rugby Children's Team if parents fail to collect their child and no communication has been received. Please note: Any child not collected **before 3:35pm** without prior communication will automatically be placed in the after school club and parents may be charged a session cost.

## Attendance

Children are expected to be in school every day by 8:50am. If your child is going to be absent or late into school, it is vital that you inform the school by telephone or email **BEFORE THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY**. When you report your child's absence, you must provide brief but specific details of the reason for absence, which will be recorded on your child's attendance register. Please do not just leave a message to say they are 'unwell'.

If you are unsure whether your child should come to school or not, you can refer to the NHS guidance online at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>. When children just have general cough/cold symptoms they should still come to school and we can administer basic medication such as Calpol to help them if you bring some to the school office in the morning.

We ask that parents avoid making appointments during school time wherever possible, unless it is urgent. We can only authorise the absence with evidence of the appointment.

### Do I need to keep my child off school?

HSC Public Health Agency

|                                   |                                                              |                                                              |                                                              |                                                              |                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chicken Pox</b>                | <b>Conjunctivitis</b>                                        | <b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b>                              | <b>Glandular Fever</b>                                       | <b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b>                                | <b>Impetigo</b>                                                             |
| Until all spots have crusted over | No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | 48 hours from last episode                                   | No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics |
| <b>Measles or German Measles</b>  | <b>Mumps</b>                                                 | <b>Scabies</b>                                               | <b>Scarlet Fever</b>                                         | <b>Slapped Cheek</b>                                         | <b>Whooping Cough</b>                                                       |
| 4 days from onset of rash         | 5 days from onset of swelling                                | Until after first treatment                                  | 24 hours after commencing antibiotics                        | No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics                                       |
| <b>Flu</b>                        | <b>Head Lice</b>                                             | <b>Threadworms</b>                                           | <b>Tonsillitis</b>                                           |                                                              |                                                                             |
| Until recovered                   | No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed |                                                              |                                                                             |

## ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**SCHOOL DAY**  
Gates open: 8:40am  
School starts: 8:50am  
School ends: 3:20pm

**REPORT ABSENCE BEFORE 9:00AM**  
Contact school every day of absence  
Provide return date  
Medical evidence may be requested after 5 days

**Only severe illness that warrants absence will be authorised**  
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

[admin2421@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2421@welearn365.com) [01788 576074](tel:01788576074)

### UNDERSTANDING ATTENDANCE

Persistent Absence = 10% or more missed  
Severe Absence = 50% or more missed

**Improving attendance is a whole-school priority**

### SUPPORT COMES FIRST

We listen and understand barriers  
We create support plans  
We may carry out home visits  
Attendance contracts may be used  
We work with WCC Attendance Service

### IF ATTENDANCE DOESN'T IMPROVE

Notice of Attendance Intervention  
Parenting Order  
Education Supervision Order  
Fixed Penalty Notice

1st offence: £160 per parent per child (£80 if paid within 21 days)  
2nd offence within 3 years: £160 per parent per child  
3rd offence: Referred for prosecution under Education Act 1996

### EVERY DAY COUNTS

Good attendance supports learning  
Builds friendships & wellbeing  
Creates better future opportunities

Parents can request a Leave of Absence for exceptional circumstances but **we do not authorise family holidays**. The Headteacher will consider each request on an individual basis in line with our attendance policy, which can be found on [our website](#).

The school must collect and report details of absences by law and so all absence levels are monitored closely by our attendance team. You can access up-to-date information about your child's attendance via the Arbor app and if a child's attendance falls below a certain threshold, we will send you a letter to highlight this to you and seek to support you in ways to improve this. If your child's attendance falls below 90% this is deemed "persistent absence" and must be monitored and reported.

Please be aware that we monitor patterns of attendance as well as percentage thresholds and we will not authorise attendance if we see any patterns that suggest unauthorised absence is being taken, despite the reasons given by parents e.g. regularly missing Fridays/taking time off around school holidays/when we know a local team has a weekend tournament taking place.

## **First Aid**

All our staff have received certification in school first aid. Simple first aid is given at school when deemed necessary. If an accident needs medical attention we will make every effort to contact you first, but our priority will be to seek aid for your child and an ambulance will be called. The child will be looked after by our staff until the ambulance arrives and the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will accompany the child to the hospital and wait until the parent arrives.



If your child bumps their head or has a minor injury which still needs to be monitored but does not warrant sending the child home, a first aid notification will be sent via email to inform parents.

## **If your child becomes ill in school**

In the first instance, they will be monitored for a short time to see if they improve. Parents will be contacted if we do not see any significant improvement or if we feel the child needs to seek medical attention. Please ensure that your child's emergency contact details are kept up to date on the school's Arbor system, which you will be able to do this through the Arbor app at any time once you are set up.

## **Medicines**

If your child needs medication during the day, please can an adult bring in **one day's dosage** only, clearly labelled with your child's name to the school office. Staff are not permitted to administer medication but they can supervise and support the child. Parents will be asked to complete a form to give consent for the child to have medication at school with the dosage requirements.

All medicines including regular medicines such as inhalers and epipens are kept securely in the classroom. Parents must provide an asthma card or epipen action plan, which should be completed with your healthcare provider when these medications are prescribed. If you do not have one, we can provide a blank version for you to complete for our records. These give us all the details of what to be used when, the trigger alerts to look out for, what other actions should be taken etc. If required, diabetic medicines are also stored securely in school - parents and staff will then consult on a daily management plan.

Further details can be found on our website <https://abbotsfarm.co.uk/parents/medical-information-and-support-in-school/>.

## **Returning to school after illness**

Children returning to school after illness should clearly be fit to do so and free from infection. The school follows the local health authority guidance on infectious illness incubation periods and parents can seek advice from the school as to when a child should return after common infections. A child must be off school for **48 hours** following the last time they were sick before they attend school again to prevent the spread of common sickness bugs.

If your child has an accident that results in an injury such as a broken bone and they need specific support for a few weeks, we ask that you let us know before coming back in to school so that we can have the necessary paperwork ready to complete on your child's return. We may also need to complete a risk assessment or personal evacuation plan for your child if, for example, they are on crutches or temporarily using a wheelchair.

## School Uniform

All children who attend Abbots Farm Junior School are expected to have pride in their appearance and the school uniform is important in achieving that aim. Uniform is by definition restrictive but it does ensure all children are smartly and sensibly dressed, giving them pride in themselves and a sense of belonging to this school and all that means. See our policy and further uniform information at <https://abbotsfarm.co.uk/school-uniform/>



|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shirt:                | Plain white or school polo shirt                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Trousers/Skirt/Dress: | Grey/Black (NOT fashion trousers/jogging bottoms or jeans)                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Jumper:               | Royal blue V or round necked jumper or cardigan or school sweatshirt/cardigan                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Socks:                | Black, grey or white (or black/grey tights)                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Summer dresses:       | Small blue and white checks or stripes                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Shoes:                | Sensible black school shoes/boots or smart, completely black trainers                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Outdoor learning:     | Wellies and a raincoat must be kept in school at all times to enable children to access our outdoor provisions whatever the weather. Even better are the all in one puddle suits that you can buy that will keep them clean, dry and warm at all times. |

### Inside P.E.

White round-necked T shirt  
Black or white shorts  
Short white socks  
Black or white pumps

### Outside P.E.

White round-necked T shirt  
Black or white shorts  
Trainers  
Plain black or navy tracksuit/jogging bottoms/leggings and sweatshirt for cold weather



It is important for pupils to wear correct clothing for physical activities. A complete change of kit is required for PE activities. All clothing should be clearly labelled. Jewellery must not be worn for sporting activities and long hair should be tied back.

During the warm summer months, children should have sun protection cream applied before coming to school. They will also need a sun hat.

### Jewellery and Hair

The only items that are considered appropriate are watches, and studs or sleepers worn in pierced ears (these must be removed for PE unless parents send a letter which will release the school and governors from all legal responsibilities in case of injury). **Any types of Smartwatches are not allowed.** The school will not allow jewellery or cosmetics unless for cultural reasons, and then only if approved by the Headteacher.

Hair should not be treated to alter its natural colouring and should not have designs shaved or coloured into it. We also do not permit gel in the hair as this affects our PE mats, etc.

### Purchasing Uniform

There is no single supplier of the school uniform and all the items listed above can be purchased from a number of suppliers, including supermarkets and budget-friendly clothes retailers. Abbots Farm shirts and sweatshirts bearing the school crest, can be purchased at 'Webb Ellis' on St Matthews Street in the town centre. Book bags can be purchased through the uniform shops too – we no longer stock them at school.

If you ever need some help with uniform, we have a good stock of second-hand uniform available in school. Please just speak to a member of staff and we will do what we can to help. We also set stalls up from time to time for parents to purchase second-hand uniform and will have one available at the new parents welcome meeting in July.

### **Lost Property**

Any lost property is stored for a reasonable period of time, but it is often difficult to identify items that are not labelled. If your child loses something they should speak to a member of staff in their year group as most lost property is kept in the year group areas.

## **Snacks, lunches and drinks**

### **School Meals**

School hot lunches are available and are cooked on the school premises. The menus work on a three-week rota which follows the government's healthy eating initiative. Orders and Payments for meals should be made in advance via <https://www.swiftkitchen.co.uk/>. If you think your child is eligible for free school meals, there is information available on our school website at <https://abbotsfarm.co.uk/parents/school-meals/> but if you have signed up to our checking system <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>, you will be automatically alerted if ever you become eligible. This system enables us to pick up families that may not even realise their entitlement or those for whom a brief change in circumstances at some point during their time at our school means they are eligible. Once your details are submitted, the system automatically checks for you every week. **For this reason, even if you aren't currently eligible and think you never will be, we still ask you to sign up.**



### **WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL!**

**As we have pupils with severe allergies, we are a nut free school – please do not bring in any snacks or food containing nuts.**



Children who do not have a school meal should bring a packed lunch in a secure container labelled with your child's name and class. We are a healthy school and therefore we encourage parents to ensure that they provide a healthy balanced lunch for their child. They should not bring any fizzy drinks or sweets and in the interests of health and safety, we would ask that children do not bring glass bottles or cans. If your child forgets their packed lunch, we will supply something for them and ask you to log onto <https://www.swiftkitchen.co.uk/> to pay for the meal.

### **Snacks and drinks**

If you would like your child to have a mid-morning snack, we encourage them to bring in fresh/dried fruit or vegetables which they can eat at break time. **No sweets/chocolate please.**

We encourage the children to take regular water drinks throughout the day as we understand the need for children to stay hydrated. No flavoured water or cordials please as this causes us to have issues with ants in the classroom. We have water stations in both upper and lower school for their bottles to be refilled.



## Our Relational and Restorative Approach to Behaviour

At Abbots Farm, all staff prioritise the building of strong relationships with our pupils. It is underpinned by our trauma-informed, relational approach where building relationships is everyone's business and everyone's first priority. To ensure that every child feels safe and has the opportunity to reach their potential, staff follow our relationship policy to deliver a consistent approach to building relationships and effectively managing behaviour.

Our school rules are:



Celebration, praise and reward are at the centre of our trauma-informed, attachment-aware and relational approach. Rewards are built on positive praise and a sense of belonging and achievement, but there are also specific ways in which we share praise with our pupils such as our 'Celebration Assembly' every Friday, which also comes home as a 'Learning Newsletter' produced by the pupils each week via Seesaw. We also have a 'Celebration Wall' in the library, house points and raffle tickets for individual effort, the **Chase Award** 🍌 for whole class effort and termly **Values Awards** and **Over and Above Awards**, all form part of creating an ambitious environment where children thrive on giving their best effort.

Where children have not demonstrated the rules and school values effectively, they are encouraged to reflect upon their actions by engaging in discussion with a staff member about the choices that they could have made and the impact their actions have.

On the occasions where behaviour is deemed to be risking others' safety and wellbeing, parents may be called to discuss such incidents. A collaborative approach between school and home is something that we fully embrace as it has a much stronger impact in all areas of your child's development, particularly their personal development.

For further information on our Relationship and Behaviour Policy, and our other policies relating to behaviour/inclusion/exclusion, please refer to our school website.

### Pupil Leadership

During the year, we encourage pupils to be active citizens and support their peers by undertaking roles such as house captains (Y6) or ambassadors (Y3-5), play leaders, digital leaders, librarians eco-committee members and a wellbeing team. Pupils have the chance to volunteer for certain roles and are chosen by staff for others. This is a great opportunity to develop their young leadership skills and show **Ambition** throughout their time at school.



Much of the success that the school has experienced has come from the excellent examples our young leaders demonstrate by supporting the rest of our community in achieving their best. We hope they continue to inspire the newest generation of Farmers as they arrive in September.

## The Curriculum

At Abbots Farm Junior School, we deliver a broad, balanced, and engaging curriculum that inspires a love of learning and supports every child to achieve their best. Our teaching is carefully planned to build strong foundations in English and mathematics, while also providing rich, meaningful experiences across the wider curriculum, including science, humanities, the arts, and physical education. Creative subjects are at the heart of our approach; pupils are encouraged to explore and express themselves through art, music, drama, and design technology, developing imagination, confidence, and originality. Opportunities for performance, practical making, and creative problem-solving are woven throughout our curriculum, ensuring that all children can discover and nurture their individual talents. We adopt an inclusive and stimulating teaching style that develops key skills such as reflection, collaboration, and resilience, alongside a strong emphasis on reading and vocabulary development. Lessons are carefully adapted to meet the needs of all learners, providing both challenge and support within a nurturing classroom environment. Through high-quality teaching and a commitment to continuous improvement, we aim to equip every child with the knowledge, skills, and creativity they need for the next stage of their education and beyond



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Learning at Abbots Farm Junior School follows the National Curriculum, which sets out the core objectives, knowledge and skills that should be taught across the core subjects of English, Mathematics, and Science, as well as the foundation subjects: Computing, Design and Technology, History, Geography, Music, Art, Modern Foreign Language (French at AFJS) and Physical Education. We are very proud of our wide PSHE curriculum too and in line with local SACRE guidelines, our Religious Education is taught through the local syllabus which is known as Religion and World Views.

The National Curriculum is not the whole curriculum and we offer many other enrichment opportunities such as cooking and gardening sessions. At this school, pupils are actively encouraged to attend the range of activities on offer outside normal teaching time. These activities are entirely voluntary and arise from the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff who accept responsibility for them. As staff members leave and new ones arrive, the range of activities change but we always endeavour to offer a wide menu of after school and lunchtime options.



We also offer children the opportunity to learn an instrument with one of our peripatetic teachers in individual or small group lessons each week. These are paid for by parents. A flyer will be circulated separately with further details.

### **Religious Education**

Our Religious Education lessons provide a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live and how religion has evolved and changed. Religious Education at our school contributes to the cultural, social, spiritual and moral life of our children as they acquire knowledge of a range of different cultures and traditions, and learn tolerance and understanding of other people and different environments. Children will be supported to engage and think rigorously and creatively in order to make informed judgements; they will come to understand that it is acceptable to have doubts and to disagree in a reasoned and sensitive way. We want them to know that religious education

promotes discernment and enables pupils to combat prejudice therefore preparing them to be thoughtful members of our diverse and multi-cultural society. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from part or all of our RE lessons and assemblies after consultation with the Headteacher.

## Sport/PE

Sporting activities are a key part of everyday life here at AFJS. This is not just through timetabled PE lessons but also through outdoor learning across the rest of the curriculum, provision at breaktimes and lunchtimes and through extra-curricular opportunities.

The school has a multi-purpose hall for indoor activities and lessons. For outdoor activities we have two hard playing surfaces and a field which is used for football, athletics, rounders and cricket. We also make use of a local open area for orienteering and cross country during the spring term. We work closely with our School Sports Partnership partners and through this we can offer the chance to take part in locally arranged activities for football, netball, cricket, swimming, tennis, tri-golf, athletics and cross country. Our pupils also compete in area and county sports events. All children who have represented the school at any sport have received school certificates in assembly. Please look at our School Sports Funding Grant report on the school website for further information.



We utilise our amazing school grounds as much as possible to extend learning outside of the classroom. Throughout the curriculum, we provide opportunities for children to take their learning outdoors to make it active and practical. We have worked alongside LOTC (Learning Outside the Classroom) to embed these opportunities across the curriculum and to develop the outside space for breaktimes and provide equipment to engage children to be more active.

## Swimming

The national guidance for swimming specifies that ‘all children must attend the swimming lessons as part of the National Curriculum until they are able to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of 25 metres. We now use a ‘pop up swimming pool’ on our school playground to provide swimming lessons in the most impactful and cost-effective way. The lessons delivered by experienced swimming teachers in small groups of 8-12 children based on abilities. They will have a 30 minute lesson every day for 2 weeks in Year 3 and then further top-up sessions in future years if needed.

## Teaching children to take care of themselves

Our staff at Abbots Farm are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children at our school and we are keen to support your efforts as parents to protect your children. Teaching children about how to be safe in today’s world is a key part of our PSHE programme of study and we also have additional sessions planned for across your child’s time here at AFJS to talk about specific, important areas of safeguarding. The **protective behaviours** curriculum is woven through everything we do on a daily basis, from the way we interact with children, the language we use and the way we respond to behaviours. At the start of each academic year, we specifically teach and recap with children how they can take steps to protect themselves through the Warwickshire Taking Care Project. We complement our PSHE curriculum with the **No Outsiders** “All different, all welcome” ethos and curriculum to support



children in understanding the incredible diversity and difference in our modern day world through the language of story books.

We also work in partnership with other agencies like Childline, the NSPCC, the Loudmouth Theatre company, our local Neighbourhood Police Team, Warwickshire Magistrates and many more to bring engaging, real-world opportunities for our children to learn about safeguarding themselves.

\*The full PSHE policy, including a video explanation, is available on the school website.

### **Relationship and Sex Education Policy**

The governors of our school ensure that the school offers Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) equally to all children within this school, in line with the new national guidelines. Our aim is to prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up, and to give them an elementary understanding of human reproduction.

RSE is seen as part of the broader PSHE curriculum which is taught in such a manner as to encourage pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life. Pupils are taught the importance of personal relationships and the development of communication and decision-making skills. National Curriculum Science ensures that all pupils learn about the life processes common to all animals, including the main stages of the human life cycle. We believe that the combination of the science and PSHE programmes will help all of the pupils within our school to become happy, well-balanced children.

### **Home Learning**

Throughout the school, regular home learning is assigned to pupils, focusing on reading, spellings and times tables, as these are the key skills that underpin so much of the curriculum and require regular practise and recall to ensure success. We encourage our pupils to read to an adult every evening and record this in their reading diaries. Please see enclosed in this welcome pack a parents' guide to hearing your child read. The spelling and times tables activities are set through the online learning platforms 'Spelling Shed' and 'TT Rockstars' which your child will be given logins to when they join the school. Year 6 are provided additional home learning in the lead up to SATs – to support with revision and the transition to secondary school.

### **Educational visits**

We have a wide range of exciting educational visits on offer at Abbots Farm Juniors. These are planned to inspire the children with their learning and to consolidate their skills as well as build their confidence and independence over time through staying away from home for longer periods. We offer a Y4 camp night on the field, then a Y5 trip to Gulliver's Land for 1 night and a 4 night outdoor adventure residential in Y6.



## Special Educational Needs

At Abbots Farm Junior School, inclusion is central to everything we do and this is best summarised by our tagline 'Vital for some, valuable for all'. We are proud to be a nurturing and supportive environment where every child is valued as an individual and encouraged to thrive. Our SEND provision is built on



the belief that all pupils, regardless of their starting point or need, deserve access to a rich and ambitious curriculum alongside their peers. We work closely with families to understand each child's strengths, needs, and aspirations, ensuring that support is carefully tailored and regularly reviewed.

Our skilled staff use a range of adaptive teaching strategies and targeted interventions to remove barriers to learning, enabling all pupils to make progress from their individual starting points and feel successful. We place a strong emphasis on early identification and responsive support, working in partnership with external agencies where needed to provide the very best outcomes. Just as importantly, we foster a culture of kindness, respect, and belonging, where differences are celebrated and every child feels safe, confident, and included. Through this commitment, we aim to empower all pupils to develop independence, resilience, and a positive sense of self as learners and as members of our school community.

We have an excellent team of support staff led by our Assistant Head Mrs Watson-Tate, who leads on Behaviour, Welfare and Inclusion across the school and is also our SENCo. This team includes an Assistant SENCo, Children and Families Lead and our Den team, as well as a team of TAs that work incredibly hard to support all pupils across the school. We operate a 'team around the child approach' to supporting all pupils, but especially those with SEN. This means that we do not have 1:1 adults assigned to pupils but instead build a network of adults around the pupils that need more support. This helps us to ensure that there is always someone available to support a pupil that they are familiar with and also support pupils in developing relationships with different people and for different purposes. Our staff aim to be the adults that champion your child every day and be there for them when they need us most.



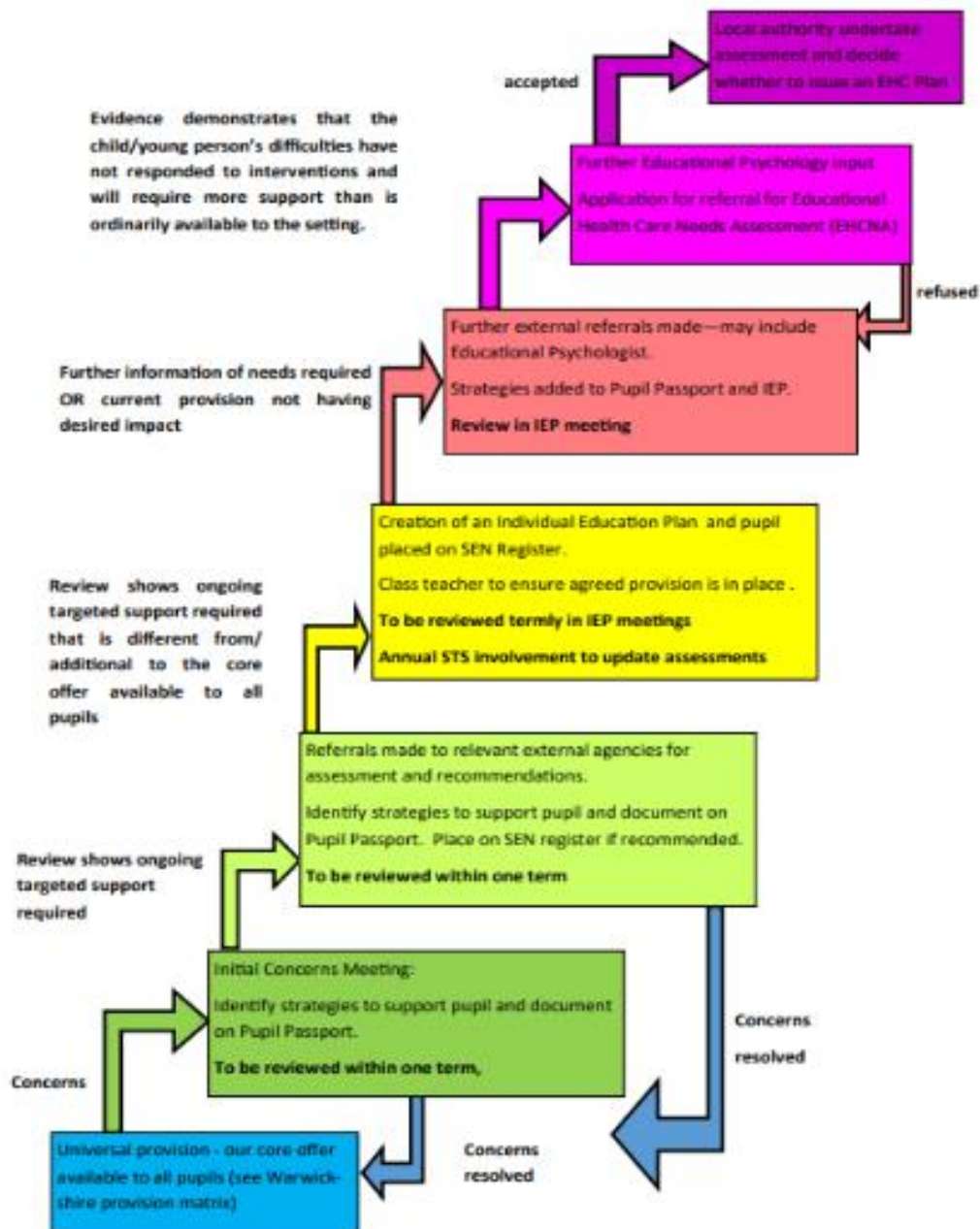
SEND provision at Abbots Farm Junior School is built on the graduated approach, which is a structured and responsive way of identifying, supporting, and reviewing the needs of pupils with SEND, ensuring that the right level of support is put in place at the right time. We follow a continuous cycle of **Assess, Plan, Do, Review** to set appropriate targets and identify any reasonable adjustments or specific provisions a child needs to be able to thrive in our school and beyond.

- **Assess:** We carefully identify a pupil's strengths and areas of need through ongoing assessment, teacher observations, and discussion with parents, carers, and the child themselves.

- **Plan:** Clear, personalised targets and support strategies are put in place, outlining how the child will be supported to make progress.
- **Do:** High-quality, adapted teaching is the first step, supported where appropriate by targeted interventions or additional adult support.
- **Review:** Progress is regularly reviewed, with adjustments made to ensure support remains effective and responsive to the child's needs.



Targets are usually set on a termly basis but reviewed on a half termly basis and discussed with parents 5 times a year – 2 parents evenings and 3 IEP meetings. Parents are able to



access their child's Passport and Individual Plan on Provision Map.

If you want to discuss anything regarding SEN provision, you can get in touch with Mrs Watson-Tate through our dedicated SEN email: [senco2421@welearn365.com](mailto:senco2421@welearn365.com)

## Safeguarding

### Child Protection

At Abbots Farm Junior School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It is the responsibility of all staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment to providing a safe and secure environment within which children can flourish.

We have a number of policies and procedures in place that contribute to our safeguarding commitment, including our Child Protection Policy which can be viewed in the policies section on our website. This is underpinned by the [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) guidance, which is updated yearly by the government and

Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies, particularly Warwickshire's Children and Families Team, when there are concerns about a child's safety and welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about our pupils are discussed with parents/carers first, unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.

We actively support the Government's Prevent Agenda to counter radicalism and extremism. You can find more details about this [on our website](#).

If you have any concerns about the welfare of any child in our school, please do not hesitate to speak with one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads:



The banner features the school crest on the left, which is a shield divided into four quadrants: top-left (blue with a black silhouette of a horse), top-right (yellow with a black silhouette of a bird), bottom-left (red with a black silhouette of a bird), and bottom-right (green with a black silhouette of a bird). To the right of the crest, the text 'Our Safeguarding Team at AFJS' is written in large white font. Below this, five individual portraits of staff members are shown against a blue background. Each portrait is accompanied by their name and role in white text.

| Name            | Role                  |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs Webb        | Headteacher           |
| Mr Corbett      | Deputy Headteacher    |
| Mrs Watson-Tate | Assistant Headteacher |
| Miss Dolan      | C&F Lead              |
| Mrs Saunders    | Office Manager        |

For further information please refer to our Child Protection Policy & Safeguarding Policy and statement which can be found on our [school website's policies page](#), along with many other useful documents.