



Abbey Court School

'We Grow People'

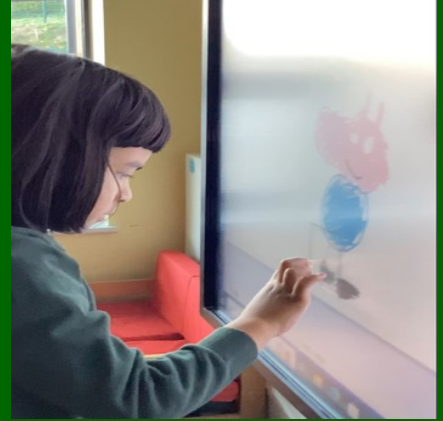
The Community Newsletter - keeping you informed about life at Abbey Court - your local special school.



Primary & Secondary department: Cliffe Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent. ME2 3DL

Further Education: Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent.

ME2 3SP
01634 338220 (both sites)



On The Farm

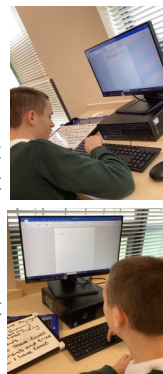


Class P2 all absolutely love the farm! Each week when we visit, we always have a special request from one of our pupils to see the pigs, which are her favourite animals. Her love of pigs stemmed from her favourite TV character, George Pig.

This pupil is incredibly creative and amazed her class team with her fantastic drawing of George Pig, which she drew completely from memory. She is very proud of her drawing and has taken great pride in showing it to staff around school and putting it onto the celebration wall in our classroom.

IEP TARGET

A pupil in class S6 has been using his communicator to discuss with an adult what he has enjoyed doing this term at school. After discussing this with an adult, who helped to write down his ideas, he then typed them up independently, choosing the Microsoft Word program over Symwriter to create his newsletter article.



This is what he wrote...

"This term I have enjoyed going to Strood swimming pool it is a bit cold but once I put my shovlders under it felt warmer. I enjoy going horse riding with my friends. I have also made toast with my friends and tasted it and now I have toast every day."

Great work! IEP target achieved!

www.abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk



ABBHEY COURT SCHOOL IS AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL
OFSTED MARCH 2023



William Shakespeare's **'THE TEMPEST'**

Performed by Abbey Court School

Our Headteacher, Vicky Aspin, presented us with certificates and roses for our hard work and dedication representing our school.

Everyone is very proud of us... and so are we!

On the 14th November 2023, Abbey Court School rocked on over to the Woodville Halls Theatre in Gravesend to perform in the Coram Shakespeare for Schools Festival!

We worked hard on rehearsing our performance of a modern version of 'The Tempest' throughout Terms 1 and 2. Being part of the performance was fun! We even got to watch other schools perform. It was an amazing experience! For our final curtain, we performed to our school, providing all pupils with the opportunity to enjoy live Shakespeare!



AQA ANIMAL HUSBANDRY POULTRY

Class S2 have been working on the AQA Award in 'Animal Husbandry: Poultry'. For this award, the pupils had to identify feed for the chickens, give them fresh water, provide fresh food and collect eggs. The pupils really enjoyed all elements of the award, but they agreed that their favourite activity was cutting up strawberries and grapes then feeding them to the chickens, which they loved! Great work on the farm!



REMEMBERANCE



As a school, Abbey Court always commemorates Remembrance Day and classes make individual poppies or a wreath to share as part of a school assembly. The pupils have previously discussed the meaning of the colours associated with the poppy and were all able to name them using their voices, symbols or by pointing. However, this year, P12 wanted to lay the wreath at an actual memorial and so we visited the Chatham Naval War Memorial site. The pupils were extremely interested in what they saw and were able to identify the equipment being held by each of the sailor statues. The pupils were very respectful when laying their wreath, and they were all able to wait quietly for one minute, as we paid a tribute of our own to the brave men and women who lost their lives or were injured during previous conflicts. Lest we forget.



Off Site Horse Riding



Over the past term, six pupils from KS2 have been going to Mierscourt Valley Riding School in Rainham for horse riding sessions. Each session starts with the pupils preparing for their ride by being fitted with a riding hat and putting on their wellington boots. Pupils spend some time grooming the horses and learning about basic pony care. All pupils have been highly engaged in the sessions and are developing their horse-riding skills.



At the start of November, the secondary pupils began attending their weekly horse riding sessions at the Arrow Riding School in Dartford. In their first two sessions, the pupils learnt how to mount and dismount a horse safely, how to sit on the horse and how to make the horse go by saying or Makaton signing the words, 'Walk on'. The pupils have made great improvements in their riding skills, and are now able to ride over obstacles and also ride the horse using just their feet, not holding on with their hands (as you can see in the photographs)!



The horses are then saddled and led up to the paddock, where the pupils mount the horses using the correct technique; from the left of the horse, putting their left foot in the stirrup and lifting themselves on. The pupils have been learning how to hold the reins correctly and use them to steer the horse around the paddock and cones. The pupils then trot the horses around the paddock, supported by the Mierscourt Riding School staff.



Further Education Work Experience

Each week, all our FE students undertake work experience in the community, to help them to develop functional life skills, and contribute to enterprise projects for charity fundraising. Their experiences are in a variety of settings; this has recently included Age UK. The students have been socialising with the elderly people and helping them by handing out items for bingo. In addition, they have been working to improve the Age UK environment by planting pots with bulbs and clearing the garden area for the visitors.



At Broomhill Park, our young people support the Friends of Broomhill charity by litter picking and pruning back vegetation, to improve the local environment. At our farm, FE students take great pride in taking part in the daily upkeep and caring for the animals, vegetables and plants.



Within their own environment in the FE Department, students sort, tidy, clean, wash, shop and cook. Students have been learning about the needs of wildlife and what would improve their habitat by making wooden shelters for them. As part of their enterprise work, students get involved in planning, designing and making crafts to sell. This is a great opportunity for confidence building for all of the students. Finding out about their personal interests and skills helps prepare them to make choices in their careers and future work as volunteers in their community.



MID KENT COLLEGE - CAR MECHANICS



Car mechanics is one of three college taster courses that our FE pupils will be experiencing this year, with the other two being 'hairdressing' and 'public services'. For each course, different pupils will attend, based upon their interests. The pupils work alongside trained professionals and are supported at all times by our Abbey Court staff. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to be included in a mainstream college environment, and it is giving them the skills needed for when they leave us at the aged of 19, with the hope of them moving onto a specialist college setting.

