



Abbey Court School

'We Grow People'

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

We are a UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting School!

On 11th November, two Unicef Rights Respecting School Award Senior Professional Advisers visited the school to carry out their assessment. They met with senior leaders, teachers, support staff, governors, parents, and 25 pupils from across the school. Learning walks were carried out at both school sites and the farm, and the wide range of evidence provided by the school was reviewed. It was a highly enjoyable day, celebrating all of the school's work on teaching and learning about, through and for children's rights!

The school has been on its rights respecting journey with Unicef since 2011, achieving the Gold Award in 2014, 2017 and 2021. In the RRSA Reaccreditation Report, it states that, 'It was evident that children's rights are embedded across the school and underpin every facet of school life.'

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The Unicef RRSA reaccreditation report identifies that the school's strengths include:

- ◇ A strategic approach of senior leaders to embed a rights-based approach, putting it at the core of the school's ethos;
- ◇ Staff members who are passionate about the rights respecting work of the school and the impact this is having on outcomes for children;
- ◇ The focus on the best interests of the child and a culture of high expectations that helps every child to succeed;
- ◇ A nurturing family atmosphere with strong relationships with parents/carers;
- ◇ Pupil voice that is valued highly and a commitment to ensuring that every child can share their thoughts and opinions in whatever way works for them.



www.abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk

ABBHEY COURT SCHOOL IS AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL

OFSTED MARCH 2023

Learning about Bakeries



P2 pupils have been busy learning and having fun through a range of exciting real life experiences. As part of the Great Fire of London topic, pupils have been learning about the great fire starting in a bakery.



Pupils developed their understanding by going on educational visits to bakeries to learn about bread and how it is baked, and bought ingredients to make and taste bread back in school.



Visiting the Local Community

This term, P3 has had the opportunity to get out into the local community to develop their independence and social interactions.

Pupils have been learning about the story 'The Little Red Hen', so visited 'Pets at Home' to look at the different animals. They also explored the bedding and toys, feeling the different materials and then using a commenting board to state if they 'liked' or 'disliked' the material.

P3 has also been to Morrisons to buy snacks for the class, as well as going to Starbucks, where they sat and enjoyed their snack together whilst trying a 'babycino'.

All of the children have worked really hard on their social skills, and are looking forward to their next adventures out in the community.



Children's Mental Health Week



3rd—9th February was Children's Mental Health Week, and this year's theme was: **'Know yourself, grow yourself'**.

'Know yourself, grow yourself' was about exploring self-awareness and expressing emotions. The week was aimed at 'encouraging children across the UK to discover how getting to know who they are can help build resilience and grow'.

Pupils across the school spent the week engaging in activities to promote positive mental health. This included activities such as mindfulness colouring, daily movement activities, learning about different emotions and how to communicate these, and art activities.

We ended the week with an 'express yourself' non-uniform day, where the pupils enjoyed wearing bright colours and different outfits from their usual school uniform.



Children's Mental Health Event



On 5th February, a group of both primary and secondary pupils attended a mental health event at Rochester Corn Exchange, arranged by Medway Council.

The pupils had a fantastic time engaging in various activities such as drum fit, a silent disco and a creepy crawly animal show. We particularly enjoyed the Creepy Claws session, where we got to learn about a variety of creatures that people have as pets.

These pets bring a lot of contentment to their owners, which aids their mental health.

We loved participating in the silent disco - this is something that made use feel energised and happy! Music is a favourite choice amongst lots of pupils in our school.

Pupils also visited the various stalls to learn more about ways to support and promote their own mental health and wellbeing.





ABBHEY COURT TRUST



Abbey Court School Charitable Trust supports and fundraises for the school and community.

We are currently raising money to maintain and develop Larkin Farm. This year's goal is to raise more than £14,000. So far, we have raised £5,000. Can you help us to reach our target?

Abbey Court School's Lottery

Cost: £10 per lottery ball number

How it works: Each ball is entered into all 10 of the academic year's draws, so there are 10 opportunities to win!

Contact the office to sign up!

Animal Adoption



Adoptees receive:

- An adoption certificate
- A toy of keyring of your chosen animal
- A photo of your animal
- A factsheet and seasonal updates
- Free entry to our community open day

Contact the office for a membership form.

Message from The Trustees

I have recently joined the Trust, and I can say that the Trust is doing an incredible job. The Trust works tirelessly to raise funds for the school, ensuring that the animals are well fed and taken care of.

Larkin Farm is a very important part of the school, as it enables the pupils to have access to it as a form of therapy. My son loves going to the farm as he loves animals, particularly the chickens! We have had a few fundraising events such as the Silver Race, Carols on the Farm.

Abbey Court School Trust has demonstrated exceptional leadership in fundraising. The Trust has raised significant funds through their tireless effort to support the school, and are dedicated to continue in doing so.

Lydia Ogundolawa, Trustee



Registered Charity Number: 1160511