



Abbey Court **MATTERS**

Summer Term 6 2024 Issue 385 Circulation 1113



Congratulations to our Young Farmers Club!

Turn to Page 8 to find out more



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS



Matt Powell
- Parent
Governor

If, like me, you have suddenly realised your 'little ones' are going to Secondary School in September, you may be filled with a mixture of emotions.

I'm wondering how our little man is going into secondary school, and where has all that time gone? I also feel proud—proud of all that Tomas has achieved, and proud of the school for creating such an amazing secondary school for Tomas, his peers, and future generations to grow.

I still remember our first school meeting with Karen Joy, telling us that there may not be any secondary school places for our children if we didn't get a new school built. What a journey we have all been on!

Having witnessed so much change in our children's futures since being a parent at the school and a governor for nearly 6 years, I am the first to sing the praises of the school staff, the facilities, the children and, of course, the animals.

External factors can have both a positive and negative impact on our children, and us as parents, with the elections being the hot topic. Even with all the impact this could bring for not only our school, but the education section, I am more than confident in the leadership team and the governors to see us ride the wave out.

Have an amazing break, make memories and we will see you all again in September, where I will be a little bit greyer in my beard, with a Big Boy in his first year of secondary.

Take care, Matt.

Photography



S2 have been working on the AQA Digital Photography Award this year.

To complete this award, we had to open the camera app, learn to zoom, take photos, edit them on the computer and print them.



We will have our certificates soon!

A Great Day Out!

S2 were able to attend an all day educational visit. We went bowling where we practiced our turn taking and counting skills. We then went to McDonalds and paid for our own food.

After that, we went on a Bluewater nature walk—something that we had voted to do in our PSHE lesson.

We all had tons of fun and enjoyed spending time with our peers as a class before the end of the year!



Handling Animals with Care

This term, P10 have continued visiting the school farm regularly.

We have been learning how to handle the small animals safely, focusing on skills such as being gentle, quiet, stroking the fur the correct way and washing our hands afterwards.

The pupils' increased confidence and enjoyment was clear to see, with some pupils progressing from limited touching of the animals to stroking them independently.



Farm Challenge



On 14th June, pupils from every key stage completed a 'Farm Challenge':

Key Stage 1 — being creative with wool

Key Stage 2 — cooking with produce grown on the farm

Key Stage 3 — designing fish tank art

Key Stage 4 — creating ‘how to’ guides for the farm

Everyone enjoyed learning about the different elements of the task, including preparing for a recipe, measuring the fish tank, exploring wool and learning what different steps there are in a job on the farm.



Everyone made a huge effort, which was evident in the competition display room.

The judges awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for each category.

Trust Lottery Draw

The ninth Trust Lottery Draw of the 2023/24 Academic Year took place on Friday 28th June 2024.

38

64

46

The winners were:

First prize of £40

Second prize of £20

Third prize of £10

Cherie Hoskins

Susan Norman

Steve & Susie

Hitchings

Congratulations to the lucky winners!

Play the Abbey Court School Trust Lottery

WIN Cash prizes every month!

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Email
office@abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk
to sign up!



£10 per ball

10 lottery draws per academic year

Registered Charity Number 1160511



Abbey Court School

FREE

SCHOOL MEAL

HOLIDAY VOUCHERS



**DO YOU THINK YOUR CHILD MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE
SCHOOL MEALS?**

Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the benefits below: -

- Income Support income- based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Pupils under the compulsory school age who are in full time education may also be able to get free school meals.

REGISTERING IS REALLY QUICK AND EASY —PLEASE APPLY ONLINE

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/medway>



Fun In Nursery!



The children in Nursery have come such a long way in developing their friendships, working together, and getting to know new faces and environments.

Here are some of their highlights from the year!



Youth Centre Visit



S10 visited Parkwood Youth Centre to support them with ensuring that the centre is accessible for young people with SEND. All children have the right to develop their interests and talents (Article 31, UNCRC).

All pupils, including those with mobility needs, were able to take part in a range of activities, so we deemed that the site was accessible.

We had a fabulous time!



Parkwood Youth Centre offer an evening SEND session for teenagers.

If you would like more information, please contact them on 01634 332 234.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition



Over three days, four Further Education students visited the New Forest in Hampshire to complete the expedition section of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Whilst there, they undertook 3 walks requiring map reading and navigational skills. The first walk was around a wooded area, the second was a long walk around a local village, and the third was a coastal walk along The Solent.

The group had to pitch their own tents and cook their own dinners. They did fantastically well, despite the weather. Congratulation to all of the students who achieved this hard earned award!



Abbey Court and District Young Farmers Club at the Kent County Show !

Our Young Farmers Club made their debut at the Kent County Show, and came back with an array of rosettes to demonstrate their hard work and success.

This year, we took our pigmy goats, rabbits and guinea pigs, as well as submitting a bumper crop of craft entries, including homemade cakes, animal fact files created by the pupils, and even our very own wheelbarrow display!

Our Young Farmers worked incredibly hard in the run up to the show, ensuring the animals looked their best and had been trained to be well behaved in the show ring.

On the Friday, a group of pupils came to support the Young Farmers. Pupils also had the opportunity to visit the agricultural education stands to learn about land-based careers.

Abbey Court & District Young Farmers achieved some amazing results, coming 9th place overall. With their animals, knowledge and crafts, they were awarded:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 🏆 3 Reserve Champions | 🏆 5 Third Place Rosettes | 🏆 4 Sixth Place Rosettes |
| 🏆 11 First Place Rosettes | 🏆 5 Fourth Place Rosettes | 🏆 2 Highly Commended |
| 🏆 4 Second Place Rosettes | 🏆 3 Fifth Place Rosettes | 🏆 2 Special Rosettes |

We can't wait to compete again next year!



Abbey Court & District Young Farmers Club



'We Grow People'

'You do not have to be a farmer to become a young farmer'

Become a member...

Abbey Court and District Young Farmers Club

For young people age 10 to 28 years

Based at: Larkin Farm, Templars Drive, Strood, Kent, ME2 3FD

Come along to one of our YFC sessions and find out more.

Sessions are every Wednesday, 4.15-5.45pm.



About us

Based at Larkin Farm at Abbey Court School, Abbey Court and District Young Farmers Club, has access to a 7 acre plot with 3 grazing paddocks, stables, a classroom and a barn. Currently, we have donkeys, goats, pigs, sheep, chickens, ducks, guinea pigs, rabbits, alpacas and Shetland ponies. We also have a poly-tunnel and raised beds for horticultural activities.

Is Young Farmers for you?

Abbey Court and District Young Farmers Club is designed to have something for everyone.

Whether you are an animal lover, enjoy gardening, are an artist, sporty or just enjoy trying something new, then Abbey Court and District Young Farmers Club could be for you! It is not just a place to learn about farming, but a chance to also meet new people and try new things.

Join the largest youth organisation, in England and Wales, for a whole new range of opportunities in both farming and other activities, such as:

- Getting the chance to care and look after a range of animals
- Training and information days (animal husbandry, fencing and estate maintenance, livestock stock- judging)
- Social events such as junior balls and parties held throughout the year
- The chance to show a variety of livestock at shows and competitions around the south east
- Sports and competitions days (incl. Football, rounders, arts and crafts, public speaking, dance and much more)



Register your interest by contacting Abbey Court School
on 01634 338220 or via e-mail at
farm@abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk



Strood Gardening Club Competition

Further Education students explored 'bug hotels' for Strood Gardening Club's competition themed on the 'Pont Du Gard' aqueduct in France.



As part of Design Technology, students learnt about identifying natural materials in their environment, and how to use tools safely and effectively.

Through Science and the ASDAN Environment Award, they explored how they could improve the environment for wildlife, learning what insects they might see and what they needed to breed and hibernate.

Students really enjoyed this project, and understood how important it was to look after insects, especially over the winter months.

We were 'highly commended', and were awarded a medal and some wild flower seeds.



Cozenton Park Sports Centre

One of the pupils in S3 recently had the opportunity to trial the new facilities at Cozenton Park Sports Centre.

Please follow the link to have a look at how the centre has improved facilities for SEND pupils:

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/cozentonpark>

There is a wonderful video to watch too:

<https://vimeo.com/962212710>

It opens on 17th July 2024, ready for Summer holiday fun.



Larkin Farm Open Day



At the end of June, we held our first ever Larkin Farm Community Open Day. We were delighted to welcome over 300 people, despite the weather. We raised over £2000, with the proceeds going towards the upkeep of the farm.

There were lots of activities, including exploring the plants, handling, grooming and walking the animals and bug hunting! This allowed for people to get up close to our range of animals and learn about each of these on the farm.

Thanks go to G1 Fire and Rescue, who provided some fantastic new and vintage fire trucks for children and adults alike to explore, as well as Elle's Bakery, and Scoff and Sip Ice Creams for their delicious treats.

It was wonderful to welcome the local community to share our farm and its amazing facilities. We hope that this will become a yearly event and look forward to even more people joining us in the future.



English as an Additional Language (EAL)



Celebrating Eid Al Adha

Primary pupils had an assembly where they learnt about the Muslim festival of Eid Al Adha, and how to say 'Eid Mubarak'.

In Further Education, students cooked a rice dish called biryani and a pudding called seviyan with Mrs Ali.

They listened to Eid songs and learned about the history of Eid.

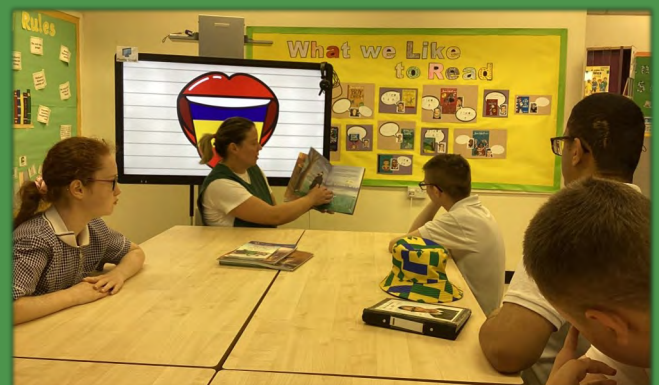
Language of the Term

Our language of the term is Romanian.

Secondary pupils learned the Romanian alphabet and sent cards to their friends.

Further Education students listened to Romanian music, found out where Romania was on a map, and learned some key words.

Thank you to Andrea Trif, who read a story in Romanian and translated it into English.



EAL Coffee Morning on Larkin Farm

EAL parents and carers recently came for a cup of tea or coffee at the farm.

They got to see the animals, talk to our farm teacher, and ask questions.

Communication

Communication is the key to getting your basic needs met, to pass on and receive vital information. In order to do this effectively, each individual needs to have ways that can be understood by others.



Some pupils in P12 can use their communication books with confidence, some use their voices, and a few use pen and paper. We have loved playing the 'splat' game to identify the phonics sound of the week from images and words. Shaving foam has been used to develop their mark making skills. The computer is also a fantastic tool to develop communication and listening skills.



NEWS FLASH

We are going cashless from September!

As of September, ParentMail will be used for all payments, including school dinners, snacks and trip payments, as well as school communication.

Already have a ParentMail account?

You can start making payments from
1st September 2024

No ParentMail account?

Please register, as the school will no longer be accepting cash or cheques

We will be switching from ParentPay to ParentMail over the Summer Holidays.

Please do not use the current ParentPay system after 19th July.

You can use ParentMail on your PC, but why not download the App onto your phone for ease!

Please contact the school office if you need any help to register your account.

Primary Sports Day



Everyone really enjoyed the colourful and inclusive sports day this year.

It was wonderful to see so many parents coming in to cheer their children and even dress in the team colours.

All the Primary classes participated in their own way, according to their ability.

Their individual achievements and class participation were recognised in a celebration assembly. Everyone received a well-deserved gold medal and a bespoke certificate, with photographs of their participation.

We are all very proud of their efforts!



Secondary Sports Week

Secondary Sports Week was filled with a variety of sporting activities. The pupils chose which activities they would like to do and were encouraged to try unfamiliar sports. Each class made use of the wide range of sporting equipment and areas at the secondary site.

At the end of the week, there was a Sport Celebration Assembly to share everyone's achievements. The pupils wore their participation medals with pride, and were able to show photos of their participation to their family at home. What great fun it was!



Fun at the Seaside

To celebrate a successful year, S5 had an all-day visit to Herne Bay.

Whilst there, the pupils used skills that they had worked on in class, such as using their knowledge of 'stranger danger', and caring for the environment by picking up litter that they found on the beach.

Everyone enjoyed throwing stones into the sea, and having fish and chips!



Stay to Tea



We had a lovely time together at the Key Stage 1 Stay to Tea. We went to the farm to prepare food and water for the guinea pigs, planted some French beans, and collected sheep and alpaca wool to create some artwork.

Then we came back to school to share a picnic tea together and play some parachute games. We had lots of fun together!

Family Feast

Key Stage 1 enjoyed a special lunch with their family in celebration of Father's Day.

The children worked hard to create personalised place mats and centre pieces to decorate their tables to mark the occasion.

It was lovely to be able to see the children enjoying a hearty roast dinner alongside their family members and sharing their wonderful creations with them.



Campfire Tea



Year 9 pupils were invited to stay at school and prepare their evening meal on the campfire.

We made spaghetti bolognese for our main course and for pudding, we made a cake! The cake mix was placed into hollowed out oranges, wrapped in tinfoil and then placed onto the fire to cook.

Finally, it wouldn't be a campfire without the enjoyment of 's'mores'. A fun evening was had by all.



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to provide fresh school milk!

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www.coolmilk.com

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- ✓ Protein for muscle repair and growth
- ✓ Vitamin B12 to boost the immune system
- ✓ Vitamin B2 to aid energy release
- ✓ Potassium to regulate fluid and blood pressure
- ✓ Phosphorus to strengthen bones and generate energy in the cells
- ✓ Iodine to support healthy cells and metabolism

Our milk is supplied with financial support from the Department of Health and DEFRA.

For more information, ask a member of staff.



Musical Exploration



This term, Further Education students have been exploring different musical instruments, how they are played, and the countries they originate from.



Students developed their skills in music composition. They listened to different pieces of music and worked as a group to create layers of instruments, as well as changing the dynamics as they joined in with their own instruments.

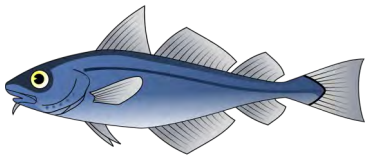
All About Milk

P2 have been learning about cows! We read the book 'Milly Cow', where we learned that the milk that we drink comes from cows. Videos showed us that cows used to be milked by hand, but were now milked by technology.

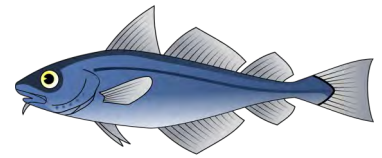
We had a go at milking a cow, with the pupils showing amazing persistence. Using the milk that we got, we explored milk baths, and made natural milkshakes in the mud kitchen.

We later used a blender to create milkshakes. Pupils showed fantastic initiation by reaching out to press the blender's 'on' button. Our favourite part was trying the milkshakes!





GONE FISHING



Further Education enjoyed their visit to Chart Hill Lakes to experience Coarse and Carp Fishing this term.

The students listened and learned from the keen fisherman, who had kindly given up their time and equipment to share the calming joys of fishing.

Students learnt how to use fish bate, how to cast a line, how to catch the fish using a net, and also learnt about the different breeds of fish that live in the lake.

They loved participating, the environment, and being awarded a medal and certificate.



Does your child travel to school on SEN Transport?



You only need to reapply for Medway SEN Transport this year if your child is moving from Primary to Secondary, or from Secondary to the Further Education Department.

Please find out more information and apply online at:

[www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children and families/475/special education needs travel/1](http://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children_and_families/475/special_education_needs_travel/1)

Parents should have been contacted by Medway SEN Department already to confirm if their child will have home school transport provided for them for next academic year. If you have not yet been contacted, please email Medway SEN Transport Department directly to ask about this, as soon as possible to avoid any delays in transport being arranged.

Please also ensure that you provide Medway SEN Transport Department with the details of any equipment that your child requires to travel with them to school (such as wheelchairs, walkers, etc.), and the size of each piece of equipment.

Medway SEN Transport Department can be emailed at: sentransport@medway.gov.uk

Communication Corner

Here are some easy ways to build vocabulary, and develop communication skills over the summer holidays, whilst having fun!

Build a child's vocabulary with these types of Words:

Core Words - such as 'more', 'stop', 'help', 'different', 'look', 'want', 'like', 'don't like'.

Nouns - the names of things, such as foods and animals.

Verbs - action words such as 'kick', 'eat' and 'walk'.

Names - such as family members and pets.

Social words - greetings such as 'hi' and 'bye'.

Useful strategies that you can do while you are at home:

Naming: Name different actions or objects during play and daily routines so that your child learns the names of things around them.

Commenting: Talk about what you and your child are doing, looking at, playing with, touching or eating. Use short phrases and repeat the key words.

Following their lead: Talk about, and play with the things your child is playing with. Respond to your child's interactions and interests. Model or copy your child's actions, words, or sounds.

Copy and add: If your child has started to use single words, you can build their vocabulary by repeating back what they have said and adding another word.

Say it again and again: Children learn best with repetition. Repeat key words over and over again during play and daily routines, such as "up, up, up the stairs".

We look forward to hearing all about the lovely things you get up to over the Summer!

Thickener

Thickener only lasts for 4 weeks once opened, so any we have in school will expire over the Summer holidays.

If your child needs thickener in their drinks,
please send in a new tin for the first day in September.





Let's talk Makaton

Below is a list of Makaton signs.

Please share these with your family and friends to enable them to communicate with your child.

Remember to always say the word when you are Makaton signing. Use your dominant hand to sign slowly and to the length of the word.

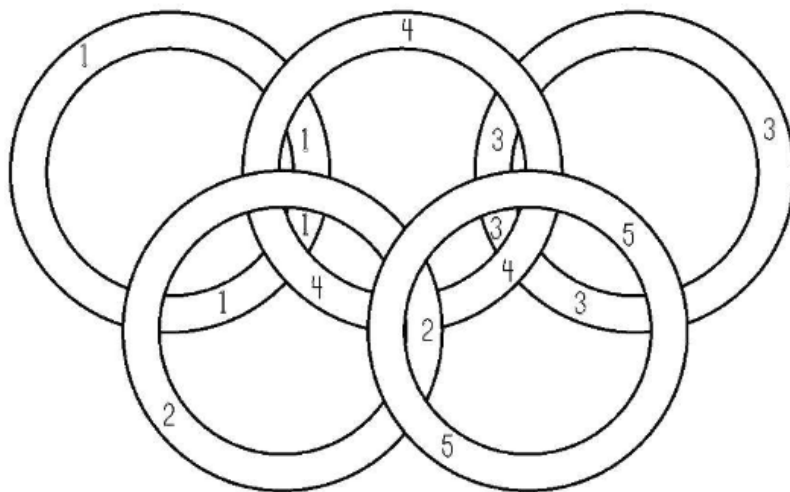


What is Makaton?

Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate.

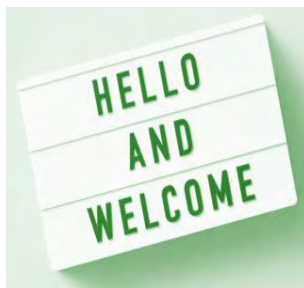
It supports the development of essential communication skills, such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall, and organisation of language and expression.

Siblings Page



1-blue 2-yellow 3-red 4-black 5-green





**WE WOULD LIKE TO
EXTEND A WARM
WELCOME TO OUR NEW
ABBAY COURT SCHOOL
STAFF.**

Holly Dunford - Teaching Assistant

"My name is Holly and I previously worked in the care sector for many years.

I have an 11 year old son who I enjoy gaming with and having lots of fun.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few weeks at Abbey Court and am very happy here."



Kerry Chapman—Cleaner

"I am a Strood local with two miracle boys called Morgan and Ethan who are my world.

I'm bubbly, full of fun and laughter but I'm also detail-orientated and a well-organised team player, so I fit in well already with the cleaning team at Abbey Court.

I am looking forward to my future and career at the school."



We are sorry to say goodbye to teacher Elise Midgley, teaching assistant Becky Clarke, and caretaker Alana Briggs. We would like to wish them all the best for the future.

We also say goodbye to teaching assistant Liz Gevaux, who is retiring after 25 years at Abbey Court School. We hope you have a very happy retirement!

Further Education's Class of 2024

The end of another year always brings excitement for what is to come, but also sadness as we bid farewell to our Further Education leavers.

This year, six students are going to Canterbury College, one to Aztec Day Services, and one to Our Zone. We would like to wish them the best of luck for the next chapter of their lives.

During their time at Abbey Court, they have created so many inspiring memories. It has been a pleasure to watch their journey, and we have no doubt that they will continue to inspire all of those who support them in the future.



Term Dates



Friday 19th July	Last Day of Term
20th July to 1st September	Summer Break
Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September	Inset Days
Wednesday 4th September	Children Return to School