

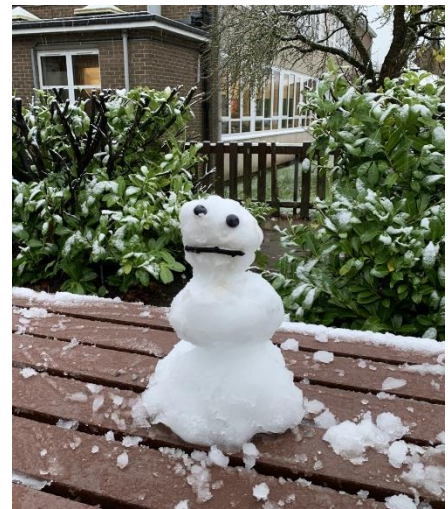
Friday 22nd November 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Winter has arrived in Abingdon. I enjoy the opportunity to share our students' fantastic achievements in this bulletin each week, whether they be sporting, creative or academic. I'm not sure which category the JMS snowman fits into here but well done to those who arrived early on Monday morning and set to work. The early opening of a lunchbox to retrieve two blueberries for eyes was perhaps the most inspired move!

Aside from the excitement of snow falling, it has been a very cold week. Please can I remind you to make sure your child arrives in school wearing their school jumper (non-school jumpers are not allowed) and a warm coat. On dry days, whilst we do have the Main Hall open with plenty of seating, most students spend their breaks and lunches outside once they have finished eating and the school site has lots of outdoor spaces which students need to cross between lessons.



You may have already seen my letter, sent this morning, consulting on changes to the school day. Whilst the proposed changes are small, we hope they can all have a positive impact on students' education. Please use the link in the letter to let us know your thoughts and to help us make a final decision.

In October we conducted a Parent Survey in which we asked you your opinions around the impact of smartphones on the school community. In your responses 52.7% said that you believe that smartphones are harmful to young people, while 3.6% of you said you thought they were not.

The comments you shared were very useful. You talked about the importance of clear boundaries, education, and the dangers of social media. Some of you asked for a total ban in schools while others pointed out the challenges of a ban would create. We are currently reflecting carefully on your responses as well as reviewing the research on the impact smartphones can have on young people's mental health and wellbeing and looking at strategies being used by schools around the country to meet these challenges. We will keep you updated with any changes we make to our approach to dealing with smartphones in school.

I hope you have a good weekend and manage to stay warm.

Best wishes.



Alastair West
Headteacher

School News

Attendance and School Transport Survey

We value your feedback and invite you to take part in our Attendance and School Transport Survey. Your insights are essential in helping us better understand the challenges and opportunities related to these areas and in shaping the support we provide to both students and families.

The survey covers key topics such as:

- Your child's attendance and any barriers they may face.
- How your child travels to and from school, and any transport-related concerns or suggestions you may have.

The survey will only take two minutes to complete and can be accessed via this [link](#).

We appreciate your time and support in sharing your thoughts. Together, we can ensure that every student has the best possible experience at our school.

Mr Ben Gilkes
Assistant head teacher
Director of Key Stage 4

Important Dates:

Thursday 28th November – JMF6 Open Evening
Thursday 5th December – Year 9 Options Evening
Saturday 7th December – Mayor's Charity Concert

*The Mayor invites you to a
Fundraiser*

Christmas

- CONCERT -

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
DOORS OPEN 2:45PM
JOHN MASON SCHOOL

Performances by



 John Mason School


ABINGDON MUSIC CENTRE
Music for Everyone
Charity No. 309181



SCAN HERE





Tickets available via QR code
£5 per person plus booking fee
www.ticketsource.co.uk/abingdon-town-council/t-pqaprsv

Other important dates can be found on our website calendar:

<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/events/calendar/>

Term dates for the new academic year are on our website:

<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/events/term-dates/>