



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents

2017/2018 Term Dates

Attached to this newsletter you will find the academic dates for the following academic year, September 2017-July 2018. Shortly they will be uploaded to the website. Please note that Academies and Voluntary Aided Schools have more flexibility with the term dates than maintained schools. We have tried to keep the academic dates for Abbey School as close to local secondary schools as possible, but they will not match exactly as schools can now choose five inset days and six occasional days throughout the year. The term autumn term will begin for children on Tuesday 5th September 2017 and the summer term will end on Tuesday 24th July 2018.

Photographs on the School Website

Please take a moment to look at the school website. Parent, Mr Collins, took some lovely photos of the children recently and the whole school photograph can be found on the homepage of the school website. Photographs of the orchestra and selected musicians can be found in the photo gallery. We have also loaded some wonderful photographs of the Year 6 children enjoying their Science Master Classes at St Albans School.

Harvest Donation

205.3 kilos of food was donated to St Albans and District Foodbank following our Harvest Service last month. I received a letter of thanks for our generosity which explained that this donation furthers the work of the Foodbank as it continues its efforts to support single people and vulnerable families. The Harvest donations provide 25% of the donations received by this charity. We donated 155.9 Kilos of food last year so keep up the good work!

Mrs Kendall

As you know, Abbey School will be saying a sad farewell to Mrs Kendall, one of our Year 2 teachers, at the end of the autumn term. Mrs Kendall has worked at Abbey School for ten years teaching children across Key Stage 1. Mrs Kendall's last day with us will be on Tuesday 20th December 2016. If you wish to join with the staff in a collection for Mrs Kendall a donation can be sent to the school office by Friday 9th December with the families name so we can write the names in the card from us all

Football Win

Well done to our football team who have won their third match of the season 1-0 against Bernard's Heath Junior School on Monday. This was the second round of a Wix Cup and we go through to play St Columba's College before Christmas so have your fingers crossed for us. Well done to Ollie Arnold, Finn Ball, Henry Ball, Bradley Clark, Ollie Colman, Sai Fisher, Freddie Hicks, Henry Johnston and Freddie Roe!





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Christmas Fundraising at the Christmas Fair Saturday 3rd December 12-3pm

Our Christmas Fair promises to be a festive fun day for all the family! Please do come along and look out for our Year 6 Young Apprentices and of course Santa Claus is coming to town!

To tempt your taste buds there will be a variety of tasty treats to buy. All of the money raised at the Christmas Fair will go towards the Friend's Association fund raising target to upgrade our school facilities for the children.

St Albans Abbey Christingle Service - Sunday 4th December

All are welcome to this enjoyable candlelit service at 3pm at the Cathedral. This traditional service is loved by children and adults alike, as we look forward to the coming of Christ, Light of the world. A collection will be taken for the Children's Society.

Key Stage 1 Nativity

There are a limited number of seats per performance to comply with Health and Safety requirements and every person attending must have a ticket which will be collected by the Headteacher on arrival. There will not be parking for buggies inside the school (hall or library) due to ensuring that fire exits are clear. No parents will be allowed to stand at the back without a ticket.

As always, a polite request that if you choose to bring a toddler they must have a seat (restricted view) and a ticket and we ask that our young actors are able to have our full attention. We ask you to be mindful if you are planning to bring pre-school children that they are quiet and close to you during the performance. If your child is distressed at any time, we ask that you comfort your child or remove them discreetly until they are settled when you are welcome to return. Thank you for your cooperation with this for the young performers benefit. Parents bringing children may choose to sit near the main door for ease of access.

All Key Stage 1 children will perform in both performances and Key Stage 2 children will watch the performance at the dress rehearsal on Monday 5th December. Children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 will need to be at school at 6pm on Tuesday 6th December when the doors open for the 6.30pm performance. After the matinee performance, the children will return to class at the end of the performance and be collected at 3.20pm as per normal. Both performances will hold a retiring collection for Abbey School resources.

Key stage 1 Nativity DVD

This is a non-profit making service. We have had the KS1 and KS2 productions professionally filmed for several years now to stop parents filming on their iPads/phone and not being able to enjoy watching it or the filming by parents interfering with other parents viewing pleasure. We ask parents not to film the production themselves.

There will be an opportunity for parents to take photographs of their own child at the end of the performance, but we do ask parents not to take photographs with flash throughout the performance as it dazzles the children and puts our youngest actors off. Please note that not all of our children have permission to be photographed.

A DVD recording will be made of the Key Stage 1 nativity 'Sparkle'. DVD's have always been a big hit and have proved to be a lovely memento. The production will be filmed by Black Cat Video, which has an excellent reputation for producing quality DVD recordings for schools and filmed the last Key Stage 2 summer production.

The DVDs are priced at £15 each. If you would like to place an order, please login to your Schoolcomms Gateway account to make your payment. Please ensure that payment has been made **by Monday 12th December at the very latest** in order to guarantee for all DVD orders to be sent home with the children before the end of the Autumn Term. Thank you.



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Christmas Treeasy

You should have received an email this week from your class reps giving you details of a new scheme we have been invited to join by Christmas Treeasy. Christmas Treeasy is an established company that delivers Christmas trees to your door and will even collect them after Christmas for recycling and for every tree that is ordered by an Abbey School parent, relative or friend, they will donate £3 to £5 to our school. They have been working with other schools in the area for a few years and we are delighted to be able to sign up to this initiative. Please consider using this service this year and tell your friends about it. Just remember to quote Abbey School on every order. Any questions about this initiative can be addressed to Alita Benson, a year five class rep (alitabenson@hotmail.co.uk).

Christmas Post Box

Our school Christmas post box will be ready for use from Monday 5th December. Children are invited to post their Christmas cards at convenient times when in school (not during lesson time!) and our Year 6 children will act as postmen and postwomen each lunchtime. Children can post their cards at break time and lunch time. The children should not come into school via the front door of school to do this at the start of the day as this is a very busy time in school.

Please ensure Christmas cards identify:

- child's full name on the envelope
- child's year group on the envelope
- name of the child who wrote the card on the inside!

Supporting RNLI

Year 6 teacher Mr Silver has asked me to remind you to save your used stamps for the Royal National Lifeboats Institute this Christmas period. We have supported the RNLI for a number of years and there is a used stamp collection box in the entrance of school, below the School Office window. There is a lifeboat collection box at the front of school and stickers available for any stamp or money donation.

Free Parenting Courses for Parents in 2017

Please see the attachment for details on the following free courses for parents:

- Confident Fathers Programme
- Understanding Teens: The Gross Stuff and the Ground Rules,
- Managing Anger and Conflict in the Family
- Parenting a Child With Additional Needs

Scooters for Schools

For those parents thinking of buying a scooter for Christmas this year as a present, please take a moment to look at this new Scooters for Schools scheme. Abbey School have registered and parents can earn money for our school with every order placed at www.micro-scooters.co.uk. Please do visit the schools page where you can enter the unique school **Code: 117449**. Quote this number on the website in order to get 10% given back to our school. Every order placed quoting this code will give 10% back to school.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Fenn'.

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher