



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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3rd March 2017

Dear Parents

Admission Arrangements for 2018/2019

The Admissions Committee of the Governing Body consulted on the admissions process for September 2018 onwards before Christmas. Three changes were considered. The governing body concluded on the 1st February 2017 to accept the changes as outlined in bullet point 1 below:

1. The admission category for children of teachers employed at the school (category 2) was reworded to aid The Abbey School with teacher recruitment. Entitling children of all permanent qualified teachers, employed for a minimum of two years at the time of application, to be ranked above siblings. In addition to children of permanent teachers recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

The governing body decided to not implement at this moment in time the changes outlined in bullets 2 and 3 below, but will revisit this in the next 24 months:

2. To adjust the designated catchment area of The Abbey Primary School to be more in line with the Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Alban's parish boundary, as outlined in the school's trust deed by removing Offa Road and Abbey View Road from the designated catchment area and instead fall into St Michael's C of E VA Primary School catchment, matching their church's parish.
3. For those children not resident in the designated area, but whose parents, with their child, are regular worshippers at the Cathedral (twice a month for two years at the time of application) who apply under category 5ii, the consultation introduced a requirement to live within 2,000m of Abbey School.

The consultation proved very interesting for all members of the governing body, allowing staff, parents and the local community to be involved in the process.

St Albans Young musician Competition





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Several of our children entered this year's St Albans Young Musicians Competition both as individual soloists and in groups of instrumentalists. They sent in recordings and then the judges chose some to be in the final, held in the nave of the cathedral last Sunday. We had a brass quartet, a string quartet and four soloists (Eliza de Silva, Sedona de Silva, Fraser Hauser and Rebecca Whitehouse) in the final, who played to a large audience and an adjudicator.

All the children played really well and we were very proud of them. Our String Quintet, playing Palladio by Karl Jenkins, was chosen as the winner of the Primary Instrumental Ensemble category! Congratulations to the Quintet - Fraser Hauser, John-Ellis Wallace, Stephanie Lawrence, Alice Persse and Rebecca Whitehouse. Well done also to our Brass Quartet – Robert Johnson, Dominic Tanner, Oliver Arnold and Amandine Geurts.

The competition started in 2012 and every year one of our Abbey School groups or soloists has been a winner. In the Secondary Schools section some of our ex-pupils were also winners this year – Thomas Johnson and Louisa Kataria in the Parmiter's Barbershop group, Emily Price won Secondary Vocal Soloist and Louisa Kataria won Secondary Wind Soloist.

What an achievement for Abbey pupils past and present! None of the achievements would be possible without the support and encouragement from Mrs Price during the children's years of music education at Abbey Primary School.



Easter activities

Please see attached flyer for Easter holiday activities for children run locally.

Parent Governor Forum- Thursday 9th March 7.30pm

Following on from last year's successful introduction of Parent Governor Forums the governing body have planned two dates to put in your diary. The first forum for this academic year will be on Thursday 9th March in the school hall from 7.30-8.30pm. The content of this meeting will focus on academy status and the vision and values for our school. The governors would like parental involvement in this important aspect of our school as we revisit it. We will share the School Development Plan objectives for the year ahead. The summer term forum will be on Wednesday 14th June from 7.30-8.30pm. We hope to see many of you in attendance and it is a wonderful opportunity to meet members of the governing body, many of which are new this year.



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Abbey School Book Week 13th-17th March 2017

We have an exciting Book Week planned, where we aim to promote the love of reading, poetry and storytelling with the children.

Monday 13 th March	• 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' performed to KS2 by Hilary Greatorex for Years 3-6. • Acting Up whole school assembly
Tuesday 14 th March	• Professor Pango Mango animal themed workshops • Year 5 and 6 to Marlborough School to see a production of Aladdin Professor Pango Mango whole school assembly
Wednesday 15 th March	• Professor Pango Mango animal themed workshops • Book Week singing with Mrs Price
Thursday 16 th March	• Book Week dressing up day – come as your favourite book character. (One prize per class for the best costume to win a £5 book voucher from the Friends' Association) • Normal Abbey School Collective Worship in the Cathedral
Friday 17 th March	• 'Pantastic' Performance of traditional tales to KS1 by Hilary Greatorex. A tale of twisted knickers from traditional tales and fairy stories for Reception, Year 1 and 2. • Cake Sale 3.20pm (Year 2/3 parents to donate cakes)

World Book Day Vouchers

Each child has been sent home with a World Book Day voucher which they can use until 26th March 2017 for one free £1 World Book Day book or get £1 off any book or audio book worth £2.99 or more at St Albans WH Smiths or Waterstones. www.worldbookday.com

Lent Eucharist - Thursday 23rd March 9.15am

Parents are welcome to join us for our Lent Eucharist on the 23rd March in the Crossing.

Red Nose Day - Friday 24th March

Friday 24th March is Red Nose Day for those children who wish to dress in red and/or wear their red nose for a £1 charity donation. Year 5 children must not spray their hair red as they swim in the afternoon.

Request for Unwanted Toys for Wet Playtimes at Abbey School

- Lego/Knex/Geomag
- Connect 4
- Shut the Box
- Mousetrap
- Cards and UNO card games
- Frustration Games
- Dominos
- Jacks

Please hand any unwanted games to the School Office to distribute. The Friends will then purchase any games that are not donated.

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher