



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Governor Parent Forum

The date of the next forum is **Wednesday 9th March from 7-8.30pm** in the School Hall. This will be the last forum this academic year. We hope many of you will be able to attend, booking is not essential but an indication of how many people attending would be helpful. This can be done by emailing the School Office.

Questions will be taken from the floor during the Q and A session. The evening is a good opportunity to meet members of the governing body, including the chair Ms Debbie Gupta, to discuss a range of matters affecting the school. **Attached to this newsletter you will find a document from Ms Gupta summarising feedback from the previous Forum in November which we hope you will find interesting.**

St Albans Young Musicians Competition

Congratulations to the 35 strong Abbey School Choir who were joint winners in the primary ensemble section of St Albans Young Musicians Competition at the Cathedral last Sunday. The children sang 'He Came Singing Love' beautifully and deserved the recognition they received. Eliza De Silva in Year 1 gave a very confident violin performance in the primary solo section. Well done to all the children involved.

Abbey School Swimmers Triumph in Hertfordshire Freestyle Event

Four Year 5 and 6 swimmers from Abbey School - Jemima Samols, Iorwen Ellis, Hannah Barker and Amandine Geurts have become Hertfordshire Small Schools Freestyle champions for 2016. The girls came second in the Eastern Region small schools freestyle relay final, at the preliminary round of the English Schools' Swimming Association (ESSA) Primary Team Championships held at Watford on Friday 26th February.

At the event they competed against 20 other Hertfordshire small primary schools and teams from Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The Abbey team also came third in the medley relay final. The girls will now have to wait to find out if they qualify for a place at the ESSA National Finals in Sheffield on 18th June.

Jemima Samols, Iorwen Ellis and Amandine Geurts all swim regularly for City of St Albans Swimming Club, and Hannah Barker swims for Harpenden Swimming Club. It's a great honour for our school to win the Hertfordshire Small Schools Freestyle relay event. I am delighted for the girls, as they are all committed club swimmers and train up to five times a week. This is the third year we have entered the National Swimming Championships. Last year Jemima and Iorwen were part of our school team that represented the Eastern Region at the National Championships in Sheffield, and they reached the medley relay final. Hopefully this year's team will also get the chance to compete at the National Final in June.

Lent Eucharist - Thursday 10th March 9.10am

Parents are welcome to join us for our Lent Eucharist next week. It is wonderful that so many parents and younger brothers and sisters come to share in our special weekly service in the Abbey. The Lady Chapel is just right for all the school to be together for worship but the high ceilings and open space make the sounds carry and the staff and I are concerned that noise distracts those children who read



Healthy Schools



the lesson or lead any prayers. It is important to encourage the children and build their confidence so if any of the younger children at the back are disturbed, perhaps parents could take them out for a little while until they are settled. Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to seeing you at our Lent Eucharist in the Crossing next week.

Book Week 7-11th March 2016

We have an exciting Book Week planned, where we aim to promote the love of reading, poetry and storytelling with the children. The theme is Alice in Wonderland which celebrated her 150th birthday in 2015 and we are still enthralled by her spell - or rather, the spell cast by Lewis Carroll when he wrote this much-loved children's book in 1865.

World Book Day Vouchers

Each child has been sent home with a World Book Day voucher today which they can use at the school Book Fair on Friday against any book priced at £2.99 and above. There will also be a limited number of £1 and £2 special offer books that are for sale (no voucher accepted) which are more suited to Key Stage 1 children.

Krista Pullan is very much looking forward to joining with us to celebrate Book Week. The books will be set out on tables grouped roughly in ages. Payments can be made by cash, cheque (made payable to K Pullan) or by debit/credit card. The school will receive a proportion of the sales from the Book Fair, so we could receive books to the value of £75 if there are sales of £250! Books can only be purchased from 3.20pm by parents and after school by children.

Monday 7th March

- Alice in Wonderland whole school theatre production
- Library competitions

Tuesday 8th March

- Professor Pango Mango poetry workshops
- Shared reading between classes

Wednesday 9th March

- Professor Pango Mango poetry workshops
- Book Week singing

Thursday 10th March

- Lent Eucharist in the Abbey 9.10am (parents welcome)
- 9am competition entries deadline
- Pantastic! A tale of twisted knickers from traditional tales and fairy stories for Reception, Year 1 and 2 by Hilary Greatorex

Friday 11th March

- Dressing up day as favourite book character - £5 Usborne book voucher for best costume in each class
- Story telling with Krista Pullan from Usborne Books
- 3.20pm Usborne Book Fair and Year 2/3 Cake Sale

I wish you all a nice weekend.



Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher