



# The Abbey CE VA Primary School

**Headteacher: Miss E. Fenn**  
**Telephone: 01727 851802**  
**Website: [www.abbey.herts.sch.uk](http://www.abbey.herts.sch.uk)**  
**Email: [admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk)**

**Grove Road**  
**St Albans**  
**Herts**  
**AL1 1DQ**

5 January 2018

Dear Parents

Happy New Year and welcome back to the spring term here at school. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. The staff and I were touched by the Christmas cards, warm wishes and generous gifts from so many of you.

The spring term diary dates will be circulated to parents shortly. The spring term Clubs List was circulated before the Christmas holiday and is already uploaded onto the Clubs page of the school website <http://www.abbey.herts.sch.uk/parent-information/key-information/clubs/> for your reference.

## **NSPCC**

As you know, Abbey School will be working with the NSPCC this term, the UK's leading children's charity, to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse. The NSPCC will be delivering their Speak out. Stay safe programme to all our children in age appropriate Key Stage 1 or 2 sessions on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, the NSPCC will be presenting an assembly to all children and run workshops for Year 5 and 6 children with teachers present on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## **NSPCC parent session -Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January from 2.30-3.15pm in the School Hall.**

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC Speak out. Stay safe. programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website [www.nspcc.org.uk/schools](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/schools) or please attend the Parents Session to find out more.

## **NSPCC RSVP**

The NSPCC have contacted me to gain an idea of numbers attending the parent session They feel in order to make sure their time is used effectively, the NSPCC have ask that at least five parents attend the session. Could you please email [admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk) by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January if you plan to attend as it would be a shame if we did not have the numbers to run the session.

## **Abbey School Governing Board**

The annual Parent Governor Forum will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30-9pm, which will now, going forward, combine with the Friends' Association AGM. All parental and child survey results will be available for parents at this meeting which we hope many of you will be able to attend. Following this, the Governing Board page of the school website will be updated with the results and a summary of the Forum.

## **Gripping Yarns –British Values**

Simon Firth visits Abbey School regularly with his large puppets to explore important topics such as Inclusion, E Safety and bullying with the children in a storytelling style with opportunities for discussion. He last visited us in September delivering 'A Place of Safety'. Gripping Yarns will be presenting 'British Values', a new dramatized storytelling on Britishness for children in Years 1-6 on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January with separate Key Stage 1 and 2 sessions.



Healthy Schools





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To help you to talk to your child about the workshop and what they learnt I thought it would be helpful to have a summary on the content. 'British Values' explores Britishness. It has been developed partly in response to DfE guidelines, partly in response to the uncertainties provoked by Brexit, but mostly to help teachers talk with their students about collective beliefs and values. British Values was developed with the assistance of Norfolk Education Advisors. The story focuses on fundamental British values of democracy and the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance for those with different faiths. The story explores these aspects of our collective identity dramatically to make them comprehensible and memorable for a young audience, using masks, mime, puppets and storytelling craft to engage attention and direct understanding.

## **Show Racism the Red Card**

'British Values' follows on from our successful Race and Equality session in December for children in Year 4-6. We would like to encourage you as parents of a Year 4, 5 or 6 to talk to your child about the workshop and what they learnt. The children felt nervous to talk about differences but we want to empower the children to use the correct terms when describing groups of people.

As a staff across the school from Reception to Year 6, we will confidently and respectfully describe groups of people as white (not light skinned/pink or fair), black (not dark/brown/tanned/African/chocolate) or of Asian appearance who could be described as brown. The children learnt that it is best not to compare skin colour to an object. The children understand that the term 'mixed race' is not a phrase to describe skin colour and can only be used if you know the parents are of mixed ethnicity.

## **How parents communicate with teachers, understand the curriculum and their child's progress**

We believe in developing a strong partnership between home and school. A positive relationship between parents and school has a crucial bearing on the child's progress. If you have any concerns regarding your child's wellbeing, learning or progress, please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance as they know your child best. You will appreciate that school drop-off and collection times are exceptionally busy for staff, children and parents. Most day-to-day queries can be answered instantly during these times, but if you need a longer meeting with the class teacher, please arrange this via the School Office.

Alternatively, you can email your queries to [admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk) which will be then forwarded to the relevant member of teaching staff. Letters or notes for your child's teacher can be handed in via the child or given to the School Office. In a class with two teachers, it is advisable to address the letter to 'The Year 2 Teacher' for example so that it will be opened that day unless it is for a specific member of staff. We aim to make an initial response, if required, within two working days, and may need up to five working days where a more detailed response is necessary. Any outstanding concerns or queries that remain unresolved after speaking to the class teacher or SENCO should be brought to the attention of either the Head of Key Stage 1 (Miss Felstead) or the Head of Key Stage 2 (Miss Hill) using the email addresses [KS1Head@abbey.herts.sch.uk](mailto:KS1Head@abbey.herts.sch.uk) or [KS2Head@abbey.herts.sch.uk](mailto:KS2Head@abbey.herts.sch.uk).

## **January**

The Spring Term Curriculum Letter and Vocabulary List will be sent home for parents in Years Reception-6. Previous year's letters can be found on the Curriculum page of the school website.

## **February**

SEN Learning Passport Reviews with parent, child, SENCO and teacher.

Formal 10 minute **parent/teacher consultations** take place in the middle of the Spring Term. This is an opportunity for parents to discuss your child's progress and to look at their work. This is a parent only session with no supervision for children. Consultation sheet will be provided to parents on arrival along with a parent questionnaire.



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All teachers will read from the consultation sheet, highlighting strengths and areas for development in English and Maths based on our end of autumn teacher assessments and behaviour and social information. Reception parents will be informed of communication, language and literacy and mathematical strengths and areas for development. Reception parents will receive an indication on how their child is approaching the end of year Early Learning Goals.

The consultation sheet will provide parents with accurate attainment based on end of autumn assessments using Age Related Expectation vocabulary from Year 1-6:

Securely Within Age Related Expectation (ARE)	Broadly Within ARE	Below ARE	Above ARE
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The summer annual report to parents will indicate assessments based on the final May 2018 assessments. Parents will also have the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher after they have received the annual report on their child's progress in July.

## March

English and Maths books available for parents to look at with their child on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 3.40-4.30pm via classroom door. Follow up meeting can be arranged with teacher if parent wishes.

Year 1, 2 and 6 parent meetings held regarding Year 2 and 6 end of Key Stage assessments and Year 1 phonics screening.

## Annual reminders of some key school rules

In order to get the New Year off to a good start, here are a few reminders:

### Timing of the school day:

- Morning arrival in school from 8.45am
- Start of school day 8.55am
- End of school day 3.20pm

The school rules and home school agreement states: 'Children must be collected promptly at 3.20pm when school ends and leave the grounds no later than 3.30pm except with the Headteacher's prior permission.

Children not collected by 3.30pm will wait in the library. Pupils attending after-school clubs should be collected promptly at the appointed time via the front door.'

Children must be collected at 3.20pm. If for some reason you are unable to collect your child punctually at 3.20 pm (e.g. in traffic jam) please phone the school to notify us of the delay before 3pm. Children will be asked to wait in the library, and parents should come to the front door of the school to collect their child.

## Friends' forthcoming fundraising events:

- **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018** Abbey Children's disco Key Stage 1: 3.30-4.30 and Key Stage 2: 5-6pm
- **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018** Quiz Night. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start

## Supporting RNLI – Bring in your used stamps

Year 6 Booster 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.

Miss Emma Fenn  
Headteacher