



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear parents,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year. I hope you have all had a wonderful holiday. A very warm welcome to the thirty new Reception children and their families, of whom ten families are new to our school community as the Reception class has a staggering twenty siblings. This is the highest number of siblings in the seven years I have been the Headteacher of The Abbey School.

We also welcome two new children joining Abbey School this week making our school nearly full with 208 children. We welcome Mackenzie McGowan into Year 5 and Abdur Siam into Year 6.

Diary Dates

We attach the Autumn Term Diary Dates and the dates for the entire academic year. Please print these important documents off and refer to them as the term progresses as all key information is contained. These documents will shortly be available on the school website and paper copies can be collected from the School Office.

The diary dates highlight the annual **Curriculum Meeting** for parents to hear about year group specific curriculum information, school policies and procedures led by the class teacher and myself which we encourage parents to attend. This meeting will be followed by termly curriculum letters and vocabulary lists to help you support your child each term. Previous years copies of these documents can be found on the curriculum page of the school website.

Newsletters

Newsletters are usually sent out once a fortnight, sometimes more frequently at the start or end of a term, and always contain important information for parents. A copy is put on the school website. Please keep Mrs Upton in the School Office updated if your email address changes. The Clubs List will be circulated shortly.

Latin Club- in need of assistance

We are looking for a mum, dad, grandparent or member of the community who can run the beginners Latin Club for the autumn term for Year 3 and 4. The Year 5 and 6 Latin Club will be run by parent and Abbey School governor, Nikki Loan, who would be able to assist any interested parties in leading the beginners club. If you have the time and skill (ideally A Level Latin level!) - or know someone who might please speak to the School Office.

Premises Update Autumn 2017

The Governing Board Resources Committee is responsible for all aspects of the school building. As you know, Abbey School was built in 1970 and we have an ongoing programme of works to modernise the school building and bring it increasingly in line with Health and Safety best practice.





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Following the successful installation of a new boiler and pipework over the last three years, the next phase of this work, to further ensure that Abbey School building is fit for purpose for many years to come, was to replace the original wiring throughout the school.

The governors and I are very pleased to report that this project was completed during the six weeks of the school summer holidays, to time and budget. As with the previous large capital projects, this project has been funded 90% by St Albans Diocese, 5% by St Albans Cathedral and 5% by Abbey School Governing Board.

This project is really exciting and has cost over £100,000. The rewiring project included all sockets being replaced with additional sockets to enable the technology used in classrooms to be fully utilised; a new fire alarm system, with break glasses at all exits and emergency lighting in and outside of all classrooms and the school hall. Modernisation of internal lighting and upgrading the air extraction in the boys and girls communal toilets in Key Stage 2 have also been part of this programme of works. The children can really see a difference and the boy's toilets alone are greatly improved!

In addition, money raised by the Friends' Association has gone towards purchasing new black out roller blinds in every classroom and new interactive HD screens, replacing the interactive whiteboards, in Year 1 and 4. The learning environment for all the children is greatly improved and will have a positive impact.

Our future premises projects will include replacing the hall curtains with blinds and implementing a rolling programme to upgrade classroom interactive whiteboards with the new interactive HD screens. I know our Friends' Association, and remember that all parents are automatically members, will continue to support us with our future plans for the benefit of all children.

Next Friends' Association Meeting – Wednesday 13th September 8pm, Year 2 Classroom

A new academic year always brings new and exciting challenges to our school community. For the Abbey School Friends' Association this means re-grouping, and inviting existing and new parents to consider joining the team to raise important funds for our school.

The Abbey Friends' Association consists of a very enthusiastic bunch of parents, constantly striving to come up with new as well as maintain popular fundraising ideas. Shirley Anderson, Friends' Chair, had a very successful first year in post and the committee and I look forward to seeing many of you at the first meeting of the year.

Friends' Association Race Night!

The next Abbey School fundraising social event for parents will be on **Saturday 30th September 2017**. The Race Night will take a similar format to our annual Quiz Night. Tickets will cost £10 per person for tables of 8/10.

Chilli and jacket potatoes will be included in the ticket price. There will be a bar to purchase beer, lager, wine and prosecco and our much loved game of Heads and Tails will be played!

The Race Night will consist of eight races 🐎 - £1 bet per race. Class Reps will email classes with ticket and table information shortly.

Kind regards,

Emma Fenn
Headteacher