



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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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. We welcomed a new child to Year 1, Fabian Hall, this week who settled well in his new class and we look forward to welcoming Fadi Hanania who starts in Year 4 on Monday. We are delighted that, once again, that Abbey School is full with 30 children in every class.

The children were struck quite speechless on the playground on the first day back when they saw the new playground equipment pictured below. The installation took place during the Christmas holidays and the safety surface gives the children an all-year-round surface to play. The equipment holds 30 children comfortably and each junior class has had a day on it this week. Key Stage 1 will have their opportunity next week and will only use a designated section for younger children. The teachers will then organise a new playground equipment rota going forward.

The whole project cost was £15,000 which was raised by the May Ball and the ongoing fundraising from the Friends' Association, so we should all feel very proud of ourselves that we have all helped to fund this fabulous piece of equipment for the children with so much play value. More photographs can be found on our school website.



Playground Equipment

To keep your children safe, **children are not allowed to play or run on the grassed bank outside Year 1 or on any of the play equipment in the school grounds before and after school.** Parents, please ensure that pre-school children also follow this rule as well.

Volunteer Meetings

The volunteer meetings held last half term were very successful. Parents and community members wishing to help in school must attend a Volunteer Meeting. We discuss the Volunteer Policy, Code of Conduct, Child Protection and strategies to use when hearing children read and supporting learning.

The meeting lasts 30 minutes approx. and if there are parents in Year 5 and Year 3 that wish to assist with swimming on a Friday afternoon this term or next please contact the School Office. **The next volunteer meeting will be on Friday 15th January at 1.15pm.**

Midday Supervisory Assistant Job Opportunity

Abbey Primary School is looking for an additional midday supervisor to help with the supervision of children during the lunch break. The hours are 11.50 am to 1.05 pm at an hourly rate of around £7.30. We would be delighted to hear from applicants who would be interested in working Tuesday and or Wednesday. You would be joining a supportive team and working with well-behaved and friendly children. Please contact the School Office on 01727 851802 for further details.

Supporting RNLI

Year 6 teacher Mr Silver has asked me to remind you to save 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.

E Safety Talk for Parents

As advertised on the spring term diary dates, we will be hosting an E Safety talk by Hertfordshire Advisor, Kate Stockdale. E Safety information for parents can be found on our school website: <http://www.abbey.herts.sch.uk/parent-information/key-information/esaftey/> . Eight tickets have been purchased so far and are available via Schoolcomms at £5 each to go towards the cost of the guest speaker. E Safety week is the following week here at school, which includes a national annual Internet Safety Day.

Sibling Application Reception 2016-2017

The online application system for a Reception place from September 2016 opened on Monday 9th November. If you already have a child here at school and you would like to make an application for a Reception 2016-2017 place for a sibling, please submit a Supplementary Information Form, and hand this to the School Office as well as making an online application by 15th January 2016. A sibling application would fall under Category 3.

A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) can be downloaded from the school website where it can be found under the tab 'Admissions' or alternatively, one can be obtained from the School Office. With sibling applications, there is no requirement for a Cathedral Form for Applications 2016-2017 to be signed by Father Richard Watson. Allocation day will be 18th April 2016.



Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher