



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear parents

Day of Remembrance

We will observe a minute silence at 11am on Friday 11th November in the School Hall. Children are welcome to wear their poppies and one bracelet in remembrance. Year 6 children will continue to be on the Key Stage 1 and 2 playgrounds at morning break where poppies will be available for a small donation and other items for 50p or a £1. The Poppy Appeal has provided the School with a limited amount of items (shown below) with a suggested donation price.



Farewell Mrs Kendall

Abbey School will be saying a sad farewell to Mrs Kendall, one of our Year 2 teachers, at the end of the autumn term. Mrs Kendall has worked at Abbey School for ten years teaching children across Key Stage 1. Mrs Kendall's last day with us will be on Tuesday 20th December 2016. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the very best as she joins her new school in Harpenden to teach a Reception class.

Mrs Kendall currently teaches Year 2 on a Monday and a Tuesday with Mrs Easby teaching Year 2 Wednesday-Friday. From January 2017, Mrs Suzanne Gaines will join Abbey School as our new Year 2 teacher on a Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Gaines appointment is a permanent position and we are fortunate to have a teacher with 16 years experience of teaching children across Key Stage 1 and 2. Mrs Gaines will be transitioning into Abbey School in December and in the New Year she will also work on a Wednesday in the first few weeks to work alongside Mrs Easby for consistency. I know you will make Mrs Gaines very welcome and if you wish to join with the staff in a collection for Mrs Kendall a donation can be sent to the school office with the families name so we can write the names in the card from us all.





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Children in Need - Friday 18th November

Children can support this UK children's charity by wearing spots and or stripes or coming to school dressed as a bear or a super hero for a donation of a suggested £1. Children can wear every spotty and striped item they have or just come to school in spotty socks. Some children even decorate their school uniform in spotty stickers! Year 4 swimmers must ensure that no coloured hair spray is used.

Abbey School Volunteers

The staff of The Abbey Primary School are very pleased to welcome and engage with voluntary helpers who are keen to work alongside them in school. As a school we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in our care; we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. If you wish to help in school with 1:1 reading and the swimming rota for example you will be asked to undergo a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service, previously the Criminal Records Bureau check) and you will be asked to complete a childcare disqualification declaration form, read and sign our Volunteer Policy and Agreement (found on our school website) and new safeguarding guidelines encourage two references to be provided.

If you would like to volunteer this year, please complete the attached volunteer questionnaire and the staff will see if their needs match the offers of help. You will be required to attend a Volunteer Meeting to discuss the details of the Volunteer policy and why it has been introduced to safeguard all. The last 2016 session will be on Friday 9th December 2.30-3.15pm, no need to book.

Delivering Special Provision Locally (DSPL)

Please see attached flyer for your invitation to DSPL 7 (ST ALBANS, HARPENDEN & VILLAGES) special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Information Village. This is an opportunity for parents and teachers to meet Specialist Advisors, Educational Psychologists, Service Providers, representatives from Special Schools, Oaklands College and the Voluntary Sector.

Admissions

Schools are currently in the process of consulting with their local community if they have made amendments to their admissions policy for 2018-2019. St Michael's CE VA Primary School would like to bring your attention to their proposed new admissions policy which is on their school website and which is currently in the consultation process.

The admissions policy for 2018-19 has been amended slightly to bring the designated catchment area of St Michael's Primary School more in line with the parish boundaries and towards the town centre and Batchwood. No decision has been made on these amendments at this stage. The consultation process enables staff, parents and members of the local community to be involved, so that the governors' final decision reflects the views of the wider community.

If you wish to register comments on their policy, please send these in writing to the school office or email admin@stmichaels.herts.sch.uk no later than 9.00am on Friday 25 November 2016. All comments received will then be passed to the governors, before their final decision is made.

Abbey School Admissions

As you already know, Abbey School is also consulting on our admissions policy for 2018-2019. The proposed policy can be found on the school website on the admissions page <http://www.abbey.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Admissions-Policy-2018-20191.pdf> We welcome your comments prior to the close of the consultation period at 9.00am on Friday 11th November 2016. Please submit comments to the school in an envelope marked for the Headteacher's attention or via email to head@abbey.herts.sch.uk headed Admissions



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Consultation. We will not be able to acknowledge or respond individually to your comments, but they will be taken into account.

The Admissions policy for 2018/2019 has been amended slightly to bring the designated catchment area of The Abbey Primary School more in line with the Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Alban's parish boundary, as outlined in the school's trust deed. The policy change will not affect siblings of children currently at our school.

Offa Road and Abbey View Road would no longer fall into the designated catchment area and would instead fall into St Michael's C of E VA Primary School catchment, matching their church's parish. 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) can be considered under category 5ii. The revision also introduces a requirement to live within 2,000m of Abbey School.

Another small alteration focuses on the admission category for children of teachers employed at the school (category 2) which has been reworded to aid The Abbey School with the local and nationwide problem of teacher recruitment.

Key Stage 1 Nativity

All Key Stage 1 children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children) will perform in both Nativity performances of 'Sparkle' on Tuesday 6th December at 6.30pm and during school hours on Wednesday 7th December. Key Stage 2 children will watch the performance at the dress rehearsal.

Children in Years R-2 will need to be at school at 6pm on the evening performance when the doors open for the audience for the 6.30pm performance. After the matinee performance the children will return to class and be collected at 3.20pm as per normal. Both performances will hold a retiring collection.

Tickets for Key Stage 1 families to see 'Sparkle' will be sent home via children on Monday 21st November. With 90 children performing, each Key Stage 1 family will be issued with two tickets for the evening performance on the Tuesday and two tickets for the matinee performance on the Wednesday. Parents are free to exchange their allocated tickets amongst themselves and return any unwanted tickets to the School Office ASAP. The School Office has no spare tickets, but the returned tickets will be given out on a first come first served basis to names on the request list which we will compile from Tuesday 22nd November.

The School Hall has capacity for 160 adults when the stage is in place with 90 children performing. Every person watching must have a ticket which will be collected by the headteacher on arrival.

There will not be parking for buggies inside the school (hall or library) due to ensuring that fire exits are clear. No parents will be allowed to stand at the back without a ticket. As always, a polite request that if you choose to bring a toddler (2 years and above) they must have a seat (restricted view) and a ticket and we ask that our youngest actors are able to have our full attention and that children are removed if distressed and distracting to our children performing.

Please be mindful if you are planning to bring pre-school children that they are quiet and close to you during the performance so that every voice is heard on the stage. If your child is distressed at any time, we ask that you comfort your child or remove them discreetly until they are settled when you are welcome to return. The production is designed for parent's pleasure as school age children will have already watched the dress rehearsal. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



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School Christmas Tree

Our school Christmas tree is being donated by Aylett Nurseries again this year and our children will decorate the tree in the week of the Christmas Fair, Monday 28th November. Any new children (such as the Reception class or new starters this academic year) who joined the school since last December are invited to bring in one decoration from home to hang on the tree that week. This decoration remains in school and is not returned home. This Abbey School tradition is fun for the children, but if your child is unable to find a decoration, or forgets, we will make sure he or she can choose a decoration from our box.

Sustainable St Albans Week

Sustainable St Albans Week will take place from 19th-26th November. There will be over 100 events in the district run by the community for the community – all about environmental sustainability! From walks and outdoor activities, children and young people's events, films and art exhibitions, food and drink, to talks and tours.

Download the Programme of Events at <http://sustainablestalbans.org> or pick one up at their stall in St Albans Market on Saturday 5th November.

Photo Competition

Rothamsted Research, the scientific research centre for agriculture located in Harpenden, is supporting and encouraging the engagement of children and young adults with agriculture and recently launched its second '*Illuminating Life: Personal Encounters*' photo-story competition. The theme this year is Agricultural Landscapes and Practices.

Budding photographers (aged 7-18) wishing to enter, should take an original photograph of an agricultural landscape and/or practice and write a short, imaginative and informative description about the photograph. The photo-story should be submitted online by **Friday 2nd December 2016** at <http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/events/illuminating-life-photo-story-competition>

Photographs from smart phone devices are accepted and the original image can be recent or taken in the last three years. All entrants are invited to an Awards Ceremony at the Rothamsted Conference Centre on Sunday 11th December 2016 where winners will be announced.

Free to a good home!

Mrs Cole, Year 5 teacher, is looking for a new home for two very friendly guinea pigs. The guinea pigs are sisters and have lived together indoors since birth. They would need to be rehomed together and kept indoors.

Shush is mainly black with white scarf and feet, born December 2015. Peanut is mainly brown with tan patches on her back, born June 2016. Both guinea pigs love to be cuddled and stroked. They have been handled every day and have very placid temperaments (Ideal for a young or older family). If you are able to give these lovely pets a new home, please contact Mrs Cole.

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher



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