



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents

What a full week here at school with a festive Christmas Fair, Year 5 performing in a St Albans schools joint schools carol service, a visit from the Travelling Crib, Year 3 visiting Celtic Harmony Camp, our Advent Eucharist in the Cathedral. Not forgetting two fabulous performances of our Key Stage 1 Nativity. The retiring collection of which raised £200 for Great Ormond Street Hospital, thank you for your generosity.

A Count Down to Christmas

Sunday 10 th December	Cathedral Christingle Service 3pm
Monday 11 th December	'Santa's Shoes' theatre production to whole school -pm
Tuesday 12 th December	'Acting Up' Christmas Assembly - pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Carol Service in the Cathedral Nave- 1.30-2.30pm (parents welcome) normal pick up from school at 3.20pm
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Lunch 11.30am-1pm and Talent Show in pm (children only)
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Jumper Day-Wear a Christmas jumper and bring in £1 donation in support of 'Save the Children' (with normal uniform)
Friday 15 th December	Class Christmas parties in the afternoon (children bring party clothes to school in a carrier bag, party food provided by the school)
Friday 15 th December	Parents to complete Governing Body Parental survey (see below)
Monday 18 th December	Show Racism the Red Card assembly to Year 4, 5 and 6
Monday 18 th December	Year 1-6 parents invited, with their child, to see their child's English and Maths books in their classroom 3.40-4.30pm . Parents enter/exit via classroom door. Teachers will not be present on this occasion.
Tuesday 19 th December	Key Stage 2 House Point winners non uniform day
Tuesday 19 th December	Final assembly of the term 1.10 -2pm
Tuesday 19th December	2pm End of Autumn Term
Wednesday 3 rd January 2018	Inset Day (Children do not attend school)
Thursday 4th January 2018	Spring Term starts 8.55am
Tuesday 16 th January 2018	NSPCC parent session from 2.30-3.15pm in the School Hall





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Governing Board Survey Monkey Questionnaire

The Governing Board will annually seek parental views and below is a survey we hope you will take the time to complete by Friday 15th December 2017. https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/abbeysurvey_2017

All survey results will be available for parents at our annual **Parent Governor Forum on Thursday 15th March** from 7.30-9pm, which will now going forward combine with the **Friends' Association AGM**.

The Abbey School's Vision, Mission, Values and Aims

Over the last 12 months The Abbey School Governing Board has been working on refreshing our school vision and values. The Governing Board would like to thank the parents for their input at the Parent Governor Forum, and to the children who have helped bring these words to life. We have also benefitted from external facilitators, and the views of the staff and our senior leadership, to deliver vision and values for our whole school community.

What is a Vision?

A **vision** statement describes our destination, where we want to go and what we aspire to be.

Our Vision Statement

To build foundations, inspired by Christian values, that nurture and empower confident citizens of the future to lead and serve.

What are Values?

Values describe the guiding principles of our school and how we want to behave and interact.

They describe "how" we will deliver our Mission. They will show how we will behave and act on our journey.

We work hard to achieve our aims and live up to **Our Christian Values**:

- **Thankfulness**
- **Love**
- **Friendship**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Wisdom**
- **Trust**
- **Justice**
- **Endurance**

What is a Mission?

A **mission** is our core purpose, why we exist. It explains how we will to get to our Vision.

Our Mission

Together we learn, we care, we achieve – for ourselves, for each other, and for the community in which we live.

What are Aims?

Aims are specific things we will do to deliver our Mission and achieve our Vision. They usually describe what we will do and what will be different as a result. Aims are usually measurable or trackable.

Our Aims

- Our **school environment** provides a safe, nurturing, positive and dynamic learning place, shaped by our Christian values, that enables us to grow – intellectually, spiritually, creatively and physically
- Our **teaching** offers a broad, challenging and outstanding education that every pupil can access to reach their full potential



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- Our **approach to learning** will nurture the skills, motivation and working habits that inspire a positive attitude to independent learning and thinking so that every pupil approaches the future with confidence
- We will nurture and celebrate British values (democracy, rule of law, individual freedom, mutual respect and tolerance of difference) and promote awareness of the world around us, so that pupils are **responsible citizens**
- We **value the unique individuality** of each member of the whole school community. We celebrate those things we have in common and our differences
- We work in **constructive partnership** with parents and carers to achieve outstanding outcomes for every child

Show Racism the Red Card

On Monday 18th December two seasoned educators, will lead an assembly with all 90 Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils and their teachers and TAs, which will cover equality, addressing skin colour, race and ethnicity. The show Racism the Red Card DVD will be shown to the children at the beginning of the assembly to allow the pupils plenty of chances to ask questions.

Year 1-6 parent 'Book Look' opportunity- Monday 18th December 3.40-4.30pm

You may have noticed from the diary dates above that Year 1-6 parents are invited, with their child, to see their child's English and Maths books in their classroom between 3.40-4.30pm. Year 1-6 parents must enter/exit via their classroom door. Teachers will not be present on this occasion.

Another opportunity will be offered at the end of the spring term to compliment the October and February Parent Consultations. Reception Building Books will be sent home for parents to look at and enjoy with their child at the end of every half term.

St Albans Abbey Christingle Service - Sunday 10th December 3pm

All are welcome to this candlelit service at the Cathedral. This traditional service is loved by children and adults alike, as we look forward to the coming of Christ, Light of the world. A collection will be taken for the Children's Society.

Carol Service – Wednesday 13th December 1.30-2.30pm

Our very special whole school Carol Service will be held in the Nave of the Cathedral on Wednesday 13th December. This is an event not to be missed. Mrs Price and the children have been working very hard in preparation for this event and will showcase their collective talents. This is a non-ticket event and all parents and friends and family are warmly welcome. The children will return to school as normal and be collected at 3.20pm. There will be a retiring collection towards Abbey School resources with a proportion supporting St Albans Cathedral.

We politely request that parents allow the school children to remain in their class line and order as they process in and out of the Cathedral, especially Reception, to ensure that the staff can supervise the children easily. **We do ask parents not to take photographs during the Cathedral services.**

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.

Hertfordshire County Council's School Closure Notification system

In the event of severe weather, a public emergency or unforeseen circumstances, it may be necessary for a school to close or partially close.



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In order to ensure parents and guardians are informed as quickly as possible of anything that may have an impact on a normal school day, this notification system is in place to enable messages from schools to be sent immediately via text message and email.

Parents must sign up to this system in order to access the immediate updates. Please right click on the following link and then click on 'sign up' in the top right corner:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>

Please take 5 minutes to register your details for any Hertfordshire school your child attends so that you can receive immediate information and updates.

Sibling Application Reception 2018-2019

The online application system for a Reception place from September 2018 is open. If you already have a child here at school and you would like to make an application for a Reception 2018-2019 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 2018. 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 to be signed by Mother Sally Jones. Allocation day will be 16th April 2018.

Merry Christmas.

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher