



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents

Welcome back to the start of the final half term of this academic year. We have lots in store, including:

Albantide Eucharist-Thursday 22nd June

In the run up to the Alban Pilgrimage on Saturday 24th June we will be holding an Alban Day here at school. Alban's story takes us right back to the beginning of the Christian faith in Britain, but it remains fresh and inspiring for Christians today. Over 1700 years ago, Alban was executed for giving shelter to a Christian priest fleeing persecution by the Romans. Moved by the priest's faith, Alban became a Christian and the two men swapped cloaks, enabling the priest to escape. Alban was arrested instead, brought to trial and beheaded on the hill where St Albans Cathedral now stands.

The children are invited to come to school dressed as an angel, a soldier or dressed in red to remember Alban. Instead of our weekly service being held in the Lady Chapel, we will have a Eucharist in the Crossing, which parents are welcome to attend.

Summer Fair- Saturday 1st July

Just a reminder that the Summer Fair is on Saturday 1st July from 12-3pm. Thank you to all in advance for your support in the run up to this substantial fundraising event for Abbey School. Friday will be the non-uniform day in support of the Fair. Year 6 will be invited to be involved in the annual Junior Apprentice enterprise which has proved very successful.

Key Stage 2 Summer Production – 4th and 5th July

The Key Stage 2 children are busy rehearsing for the summer production 'The Rocky Monster Show'. All children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be involved and must attend both evening performances from 6pm on Tuesday 4th July and Wednesday 5th July. Black Cat video will record the Tuesday evening performance and DVDs will be available to purchase.

Production Tickets

The school hall has seating capacity for 160 when there are 120 KS 2 children in addition seated. There are 102 families so we have decided again this year as we did last year to allocate each family with three tickets which can be ordered via our parents evening system on our school website. There will be no physical tickets. I will have a print out of ordered tickets which I will cross reference on arrival.

Ticket Ordering Process:

The tickets will be released in two phases:

Phase 1: The initial release of a maximum of 2 tickets per KS2 family opens 7am Monday 19th June and closes 11am Friday 23rd June.

Phase 2: 1 further ticket per KS2 family will be released. This is released Monday 26th June at 7am and will close 11am Friday 30th June. Depending on availability this may be either for the Tuesday 4th or Wednesday 5th July.

All parents receive all email communication, including separated parents. Can I urge all parents to liaise and agree how the three tickets will be shared as when a parent logs in under their KS2 child's name and requests the two tickets in phase 1, no other subsequent parent of said child will be able to then order tickets. If you anticipate any problems or have any questions, please contact the School Office. Thank you.





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Online ticket system

Please visit <https://abbeyprimaryschool.parenteveningsystem.co.uk> to request your tickets following the timings above. Alternatively visit the school website by clicking on the Parent Information tab, followed by Key Information and then Parent Consultation Evenings. Please login with the following information: Child's legal first name, Child's surname and date of birth.

The hall has a fire safety capacity and only those who have ordered tickets will be allowed entry to the performances. Children of any age will require a ticket to watch the performance. Please note, 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 they must have a seat (restricted view likely) and a ticket and we ask that our actors are able to have our full attention. Key Stage 1 children will have watched the dress rehearsal.

District Sports

Later this month about 25 Key Stage 2 children will compete in the District Sports field and track events against 15 St Albans small schools at Westminster Lodge athletics track. The selected children will compete over the two day event. Mr Morgan and I have begun the selection process which will be finalised next week when letters to participating parents will be sent home via email. The track event competitors have been decided through several rounds of heats, with the fastest two children from each year group coming first or second in at least three races today at school and at the athletics track. A reserve sprinter has been selected in addition who came in as third fastest out of at least three heats. The field events will be selected next week.

Abbey Sports Team Kits- please return

Can we ask that all running vests, football kits, netball kits, Abbey sports jackets and any 40A or 40B blue t shirts be returned to school on Monday to ensure we have enough kit for the children to wear at District Sports.

Parent Governor Forum – Wednesday 14th June 7.30pm

The summer term sees the second and final Parent governor Forum for this academic year. The date of this open event is Wednesday 14th June from 7.30-9pm.

The topics to be discussed at the Forum include: communication with parents, staffing, School Council feedback and a Q and A session. Questions will be taken from the floor during the Q and A session. However, parents are welcome to email questions in advance and the governors will do their best to address as many as possible. Questions should be sent to admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk by 12pm on Wednesday 14th June with Forum in the subject box.

We hope many of you will be able to attend, booking is not essential. The evening is a good opportunity to meet members of the governing body, including the vice chair Mrs Katie Wright, to discuss a range of matters affecting the school. As a governor myself I look forward to seeing you at this event.

Teaching Assistants

We have a very skilled team of Teaching Assistants at Abbey School of whom I am immensely proud. As parents often tell me, and I absolutely agree, the staff are one of the key things that make the Abbey School special. Our team of Teaching Assistants include Miss Mona Alom, Mrs Terri Clarke, Mrs Sarah Harris, Mrs Cathy Kelly, Mrs Charlie Moorhouse, Mrs Alison Percy, Mrs Lianne Sherwood and Mrs Angela Simpkin. Next week they will be joined by our newest member to the team, Mrs Bianca Murden. Mrs Murden will work in the mornings supporting children across the school; I know you will make her very welcome.

Absence Requests

Just a reminder that authorisation can only be given if there are exceptional and unavoidable circumstances which warrant it. When making a request our policy asks for requests to be made at least two weeks in advance, where possible, to allow the headteacher time to assess the request. If making a request, please add as much information as to why the request is exceptional and include all relevant details on the official proforma which can be found on the school website under the tab 'Parent Information' and then 'Key information' and then 'A School Day'. Our policy states that no absences will be authorised in September, the start of the new academic year.



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Safety reminders from Mr Hollick, Site Manager:

- Please ensure that you and your child use the marked path around the car park or the pedestrian gate on Grove Road.
- Bicycles/scooters must not be ridden in the school grounds and stored in the bike racks provided.
- Children are not allowed to play on the grassy banks outside Year 4 or run down the bank outside Year 6.
- Children are not allowed to play on the play equipment in the school grounds before and after school. Please ensure that pre-school children also follow this rule.
- Parents are reminded that parking in the school car park is not allowed.
- Parents should not use the carpark entrance as a pedestrian entrance as it is not safe.

Health and Safety

Following the recent Manchester and London Bridge attacks and advice from the Local Authority, Abbey School staff have discussed the school's approach to the subsequent heightened threat level and confirm that all trips and activities planned by Abbey School will go ahead this summer term. We will carefully assess the risks of each journey or event well before departure.

We will check regularly and follow any advice issued by the Foreign Office or other government agencies at the appropriate time. As you know, we give the safety of your children the highest priority. We have an evacuation procedure which we practice termly and did so today, evacuating the building in under 2 minutes. Abbey School does have a lockdown procedure which we will not practise or discuss with the children, but teachers are aware of the procedure. We continue to take a rigorous approach to Health and Safety and to review and practise all safety procedures on a regular basis when we are in school and out of school such as at District Sports, in The Cathedral and on school trips.

Home School Agreement and Behaviour

In order to ensure that children are safe, behaviour must be of a high standard and school rules followed. All families have received a copy of our Home School Agreement and a paper copy will accompany the annual report in July as a reminder. Parents and children have agreed to the document by coming to school. Please refer to this document to remind yourself of the Golden Rules and the School Rules which will be applied by all staff consistently. This document and our Behaviour Policy can both be found on the school website in the policies section.

We strive to create a happy learning environment and to emphasise caring behaviour at every level. The children are encouraged to care for each other and for the school. It is essential that there is mutual respect towards all members of the School community and that adults are role models to the children with the behaviour that is displayed by all who enter the school building.

To ensure a consistent standard of good behaviour throughout the school, we have adopted the following 'Golden Rules' with an emphasis on positive behaviour for the children:

1. We are gentle. We don't hurt others.
2. We are kind and helpful. We don't hurt anybody's feelings.
3. We listen. We don't interrupt.
4. We are honest. We don't cover up the truth.
5. We work hard. We don't waste our own or other's time.
6. We look after property. We don't waste or damage things.

Summer Uniform Reminders:

- Children need three pairs of shoes in school for indoor and outdoor wear. These should include one pair of black plimsolls, one pair of black leather school shoes and a pair of trainers for outdoor P.E. Sensible closed toe black shoes should be worn, not summer open toe sandals.
- No jewellery, however, one pair of stud earrings and a watch are allowed.
- Long hair must to be tied back at all times. No makeup or nail varnish to be worn.
- No hair gel/ hair colouring or stencil designs.
- In the summer, sunscreen should be applied before school and a fabric sun hat can be worn. Sunglasses are not allowed.

Our School Rules

While there has always been an emphasis on the positive aspects of pupils behaving with care, courtesy and consideration from other people and their property, there is a legal requirement to bring a formal set of rules to the notice of pupils and parents.



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Abbey School Rules

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1	Pupils should arrive on the school grounds no earlier than 8.45am. KS2 children must wait on the supervised playground until 8.55am when the school day begins. KS1 children go straight to class between 8.45-8.55am.
2	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.
3	Children who arrive after 8.55am must be accompanied to the front door of school by an adult. Children who arrive after 9.10am must be signed into school by an adult. Pupil absence must be reported by 9.30am, otherwise unauthorised. School lunches can be ordered up to 10am, otherwise home packed lunch will be required.
4	Verbal or physical intimidation and aggression is not permitted on the school grounds.
5	The playground equipment and grassy areas are out of bounds to all children before/after school.
6	No bicycles/scooters may be ridden in the school grounds.
7	Children must keep to the marked pedestrian path around the school site and carpark.
8	The carpark is for staff parking only.
9	All children are required to wear smart school uniform and school PE kit. No jewellery may be worn except a wristwatch and a small pair of stud earrings. Loose hair must be tied back and hair accessories should be blue and discrete. Hair gel, make up and nail varnish are not permitted.
10	Children must change into black plimsolls when inside school and walk to and from school in their black school shoes, which must have an enclosed toe and not be fashion shoes. Children who attend an extracurricular sporting club, out of hours, may leave the premises in sports kit.
11	Mobiles phones may only be brought into school in accordance with the school mobile phone use agreement.
12	Articles of value or money are not encouraged to be brought into school with the exception of cash payments for fundraising events when it must be given to the teacher at the start of the day.
13	No items of an offensive or dangerous nature may be brought to school. This includes knives, guns, fireworks, lighters etc., as well as inappropriate items of an 'adult' nature.
14	Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds, apart from guide dogs.
15	Pupils must follow with all instructions from all staff and fully participate in all educational activities.
16	Children and adults are expected to speak politely and with respect to all and to comply with the home school agreement.
17	Running is not allowed inside school or around the site – children are required to walk and line up quietly.
18	Fruit, healthy cereal bars or prepared vegetables may be eaten during morning break. Sweets, chewing gum, biscuits and fizzy drinks are not permitted. Children should not share their food. Nuts are not permitted in school at any time. Named water bottles are allowed in the classrooms.
19	Packed lunches may only be eaten in the dining hall, unless permission given. Glass containers and canned drinks are not permitted. Lunches should be brought in a sealed, well-labelled box. Children eating school dinners are not permitted to bring extra food or drink. Children must not share food.
20	Children should come to school with all equipment needed for the day, including homework, reading book, PE/swimming kit, packed lunch and musical instrument as appropriate.

Fidget Toys

Children should not bring toys into school, this includes fidget toys and Sainsbury's Lego cards. Only children with permission from the SENCO can use school approved classroom aids such as 'tangle toys' to improve concentration (not fidget spinners). These approved aids are not used on the playground and must be used discreetly in class. Fidget spinners are not allowed in school at any time.



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Hannah Read

It was wonderful to read the Herts Advertiser's article just before the half-term holiday that acknowledges the wonderful result that was achieved by Hannah Read, Year 6 when representing Great Britain in a friendly international tennis tournament. Hannah is going from strength to strength with her tennis playing and we as a school are very proud of her for her showing not only a strong commitment to her tennis but also the modesty shown when complimented about her results.



Batchwood's Hannah Read with Judy Murray and coach Jon Meredith.

A schoolgirl from St Albans enjoyed a successful international debut for Great Britain in Belgium.

Hannah Read, who has been playing tennis since she was four-years-old at Batchwood Tennis Acadmey, was selected for the GB U11 team.

And the Abbey CE Primary School pupil impressed those in attendance, winning all three of her singles matches, as well as a doubles, as GB came through with a 9-7 overall win.

Coach Jon Meredith said: "Hannah showed fantastic fighting spirit and grit in her matches. She really rose to the occasion and is a great fighter."

"She discovered tennis through our funded schools taster program as a tot and been developed by us ever since."

"She is one of our promising juniors with a bright future."

After her final match, she met Andy and Judy Murray at the National Tennis Centre, to cap a great learning experience.

Have a lovely weekend and good luck to the runners and marshals fundraising for Abbey School in the St Albans half marathon events this weekend.

With the summer holidays fast approaching, please see the St Albans Plus Summer Holiday Scheme Summer 2017 flyer attached to this newsletter.

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher