



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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10th March 2017

Dear Parents

The Parent and Governor Forum yesterday proved to be an informative meeting. The staff and governing body set the main priorities for our school for an entire academic year in the form of the School Development Plan (SDP). During the evening I shared the School Development Plan Priorities for the year and gave parents opportunity to comment and feed into next year's plan.

The SDP is underpinned by a variety of other documents and targets and actions for all subject areas. I wanted to take this opportunity to share the main priority headlines with you. I hope you will find it useful to see the direction the school is heading. We have tried to explain the targets in a jargon free way, as simply as possible. Progress towards these priorities is constantly monitored and reviewed by staff and the governing body.

The next Parent and Governor Forum will be in the summer term on Wednesday 14th June 2017 from 7.30-9pm.

Priority Area	Abbey School Development Priorities for 2017
1	Continue to maintain high quality teaching, learning and assessment in the context of significant changes in staffing.
2	Improve children's achievements in maths across the school by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">ensuring that 85% of pupil's are working at the expected standard by the end of the summer term in all junior classesincreased proportion of children working above the expected standard by the end of the summer term in all infant classesdeveloping basic maths skills and improving children's ability to apply their skills
3	Improve children's achievements in writing across the school by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">ensuring that 85% of pupil's are working at the expected standard by the end of the summer term in all junior classesincreased proportion of children working above the expected standard by the end of the summer term at the end of Year 2ensuring best possible outcomes for all learners, including those with special educational needs, English as an additional language and children whose families have qualified for free school meals. These groups of learners are classified as vulnerable learners.ensuring that progress for vulnerable learners is in line with the progress of children who are not vulnerable learners
4	Developing the School's Distinctive Christian Character by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">reviewing the School's Vision, Values and Missionpreparing for the new 2017 Hertfordshire agreed syllabus for REpreparing for the new framework for church school inspection





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5	<p>Developing the Governing Body by continuing to raise the profile of the governing body, its function and its membership. Whilst ensuring that the statutory duties are carried out with regards to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring the impact of teaching on learning and progress• Health & Safety• Monitoring Performance Management systems• Safeguarding (Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children's health or development, ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care). The aim of safeguarding is to enable children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.
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Staffing for September 2017

I am delighted that we are fully staffed for September 2017 in all classes across the school. We will have staff returning along with new staff joining Abbey School. All arrangements are confidential until the announcement in the summer term, but I hope that this position for September reassures parents as we know that teacher recruitment is difficult.

Staffing for April 2017

Some of you may be aware that we are looking to appoint a Year 5 teacher for the summer term and wondered if you could help us raise the profile of the advert with friends and family via word of mouth or social media. We have advertised the role since before Christmas but sadly there has been little interest. This is due to many factors.

We know that St Albans is a very expensive area to live in, we are a high achieving school which has not been Ofsted inspected for several years and the thought of being in the inspection window can be off-putting to potential candidates. As a Church of England school, faith schools have a narrower potential field of candidates. There are fewer graduates being taken onto teacher training qualification courses resulting in fewer qualified teachers looking for posts, even in a wonderful school such as ours, is not as attractive as we would expect it to be. We have advertised the post on the Teach in Herts website and fulltime and part-time applications will be considered. Appointments to view the school can be made via the School Office. Thank you for your help in circulating this information to find us the best possible field of applicants. The post is from the 18th April until the end of July 2017.

Friends Association Vacancy

The Friends Association is looking for a new Treasurer to take over from Rachael Massingham. The Treasurer looks after the Friends' finances, accounting for all the income received and monies spent, reporting at the Friends' meetings, banking, preparing floats for the events organised by the Friends' Association and filing accounts with the Charities Commission. No previous accounting experience is necessary, just an organised individual who wants to get involved with the Friends' Association.

Please could anyone that is interested contact Rachael on 07979 621335 or email rachaelmassingham@yahoo.co.uk who will be more than willing to explain some more of the duties and what the role involves.

Law Change For Using Your Mobile Phone Whilst Driving

Katherine Ware, Senior Officer – Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership, has requested that I share the following message to parents:

It is illegal to use a hand-held phone or similar device while driving, or riding a motorcycle - this is still the case stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic. **Did you know?** It is also illegal to use a hand-held mobile when supervising a learner driver or rider. New penalties now mean that motorists and motorcyclists caught using a phone while driving and riding will receive six penalty points on their licence and a £200 fine. This means that new drivers, within two years of passing their test, run the risk of losing their licence for a single offence.



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Parenting Course 'Dealing with Children's Anger'

Please see attached flyer which may be of interest to some parents. The course is organised by St Albans Partnership and will be on the 3rd May – 24th May 2017 7.30pm – 9.30pm at St Albans Fire Station, 153 London Road, St Albans, AL1 1TQ.

Abbey School Book Week 13th-17th March 2017

We have an exciting Book Week planned, where we aim to promote the love of reading, poetry and storytelling with the children.

Monday 13 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' performed to KS2 by Hilary Greatorex for Years 3-6.• Acting Up whole school assembly
Tuesday 14 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Pango Mango animal themed workshops• Year 5 and 6 to Marlborough School to see a production of Aladdin• Professor Pango Mango whole school assembly
Wednesday 15 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Pango Mango animal themed workshops• Book Week singing with Mrs Price
Thursday 16 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book Week dressing up day – come as your favourite book character. (One prize per class for the best costume to win a £5 book voucher from the Friends' Association)• Normal Abbey School Collective Worship in the Cathedral
Friday 17 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Pantastic' Performance of traditional tales to KS1 by Hilary Greatorex. A tale of twisted knickers from traditional tales and fairy stories for Reception, Year 1 and 2.• Cake Sale 3.20pm (Year 2/3 parents to donate cakes)

Lent Eucharist - Thursday 23rd March 9.15am

Parents are welcome to join us for our Lent Eucharist on the 23rd March in the Crossing.

Red Nose Day - Friday 24th March

Friday 24th March is Red Nose Day for those children who wish to dress in red and/or wear their red nose for a £1 charity donation. Year 5 children must not spray their hair red as they swim in the afternoon.

Request for Unwanted Toys for Wet Playtimes at Abbey School

- Lego/Knex/Geomag
- Connect 4/ Shut the Box
- Mousetrap
- Cards and UNO card games
- Frustration Games
- Dominos/Jacks

Please hand any unwanted games to the School Office to distribute. The Friends will then purchase any games that are not donated.

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher