



# The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents

## Hearing Your Child Read at Home

Attached to this newsletter you will find a helpful booklet for parents in Key Stage 1 and 2 designed by Abbey School staff to assist when hearing your child read at home. Also attached you will find a year group specific recommended reading list which you may find of interest when visiting the library or when buying books for Christmas for you and your child to enjoy.

## Supporting RNLI

Year 6 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. There is a lifeboat collection box at the front of school and stickers available for any stamp or money donation.

## School Christmas Tree and Decorations

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, **from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> 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. Please see the attached flyer from Aylett Nurseries giving full details of their Christmas Spectacular and Children's Activities.

## Strutt & Parker Christmas Card Competition

Each year Strutt & Parker organise a Charity Christmas Card Competition where for each entry they will donate £1 to UK Youth, a fantastic charity dedicated to enabling Britain's young to learn and succeed. The winner will win a £50 book token, a £500 donation for your school and a framed copy of your design. Strutt & Parker would use it as their corporate Christmas card this year. Last Year Strutt and Parker donated over £3,000.

All children have been given a Christmas Card entry form today and we kindly ask that these forms will be returned to the School Office by **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November** if your child would like to participate. The child's name and school name must be written on the form in the space provided before being handed in to the School Office.





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The winner will be announced on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and last year Elliot Rees, when in Year 1, was delighted to see his Christmas card design printed as a runner up in this national Christmas card competition. Elliot's design, as one of six runner ups, was printed on the reverse of Strutt and Parker's Christmas card last year. Elliot and the other runner ups received a £25 book token.

### **Key stage 1 Nativity DVD**

A DVD recording will be made of the Key Stage 1 nativity 'Sparkle'. DVD's have always been a big hit and have proved to be a lovely memento. This year's production will be filmed by Black Cat Video, which has an excellent reputation for producing quality DVD recordings for schools and filmed the last Key Stage 2 summer production.

The DVDs will be priced at £15 each. If you would like to place an order, please login to your Schoolcomms Gateway account to make your payment. Please ensure that payment has been made in order to guarantee for all DVD orders to be sent home with the children before the end of the Autumn Term **by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at the very latest**. Thank you.

This is a non-profit making service. We have had the KS1 and KS2 productions professionally filmed for several years now to stop parents filming on their iPads/phone and not being able to enjoy watching it or the filming by parents interfering with other parents viewing pleasure. We ask parents not to film the production themselves as you will only have a restricted view and you will not be permitted to stand at the back or side of the hall.

There will be an opportunity for parents to take photographs of their own child at the end of the performance, but we do ask parents not to take photographs with flash throughout the performance as it dazzles the children and puts our youngest actors off.

### **Christmas Post Box**

Our school Christmas post box will be ready for use from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Children are invited to post their Christmas cards at convenient times when in school (not during lesson time!) and our Year 6 children will act as postmen and postwomen each lunchtime. Children can post their cards at break time and lunch time. The children should not come into school via the front door of school to do this at the start of the day as this is a very busy time in school.

Please ensure Christmas cards identify:

- child's full name on the envelope
- child's year group on the envelope
- name of the child who wrote the card on the inside!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Fenn', written in a cursive style.

Miss Emma Fenn  
Headteacher