



# The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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12<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Parents

## School Photographs – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May

The school photographer will be with us on Monday morning. Each class will have a photograph taken, as well as the football and netball team members who have represented the school in a fixture, the orchestra and the recorder groups.

- \* Children must come to school on time as class photos will be taken from 9am.
- \* Children must wear correct and smart school uniform for the photographs.
- \* Girls socks should be white, boys socks should be grey (no holes please!).
- \* Girls may wear either a skirt and polo shirt, or a light blue and white checked summer dress.
- \* Polo shirts must be worn with the school cardigan or sweatshirt.
- \* Girl's hair accessories must be in line with school uniform rules, and therefore be white or blue and **hair should be tied back.**
- \* One pair of stud earrings may be worn.
- \* All school sports uniforms need to be washed, ironed and brought back to school first thing Monday morning if you have not done so already. This includes football kits, netball kits, athletics t-shirts etc.
- \* **Orchestra members and recorder players will need their instruments in school on Monday.**

## Staffing for September 2017

We are fully staffed for September and all teaching staffing arrangements for 2017/2018 will be announced on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May, on the last day of the half term. Teachers have until the 31<sup>st</sup> May to hand their notice in to leave at the end of the summer term and we hope that between the 26<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> May we do not get any surprises as it would be likely to affect the staffing arrangements shared. The communication on the 26<sup>th</sup> May will outline any new staff joining the school and the positions staff will hold.

Every effort is made to ensure that every class has as much stability and consistency as possible with their class teacher/s for the entire academic year. Teachers' contracts require them to give only two or three months' notice if they intend to leave and this combined with teacher's health and any potential maternity arrangements can make some situations unpredictable and out of our control. I sadly cannot guarantee that any teacher will be in post for the full academic year, despite this being our desire and intention.

We are confident that parents will be pleased with the staffing arrangements in place for September.





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## **Walk to School Week – Week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

To reduce the parking issues at school, why not participate in the National Week for Walking to School which starts on Monday. After registering for the event, Abbey School was one of the five schools picked to get a personal visit from Walk to School mascot Buster.

Buster will come and greet the children as they arrive to school on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May from 8.45am in Grove Road. Buster will then walk with the children as they go to the Cathedral that morning and talk about why it's good to walk. Each class has a special poster and stickers to monitor who has walked/scootered/ridden their bike all or part of the way to school next week.

## **Free School Meals and Universal Infant Meals Explained**

### **Key Stage 1 Universal Free School Meals (Reception-Year 2)**

All Key Stage 1 children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to free school meals regardless of their family's financial situation. When a child moves into Year 3, school meals are chargeable to parents unless they qualify as below for Free School Meals (FSM).

Universal Free School Meals do not provide the education benefits, such as 1:1 teaching support, which is available for those children, in any year group, whose family qualifies for Free School Meals by applying to [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org). **We urge Key Stage 1 families who may qualify for FSM to apply as the more children that qualify for Free School Meals at Abbey School, the more funding the school will receive for those identified children and for the benefit of all children.**

### **Free School Meals (Year Reception-Year 6)**

If you currently receive one of the following benefits you may be eligible for Free School Meals:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Pension credit (guarantee credit)
- Child Tax Credit with a taxable income of no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of working tax credit

#### **Other educational benefits include:**

- Help with instrumental music fees
- Help with Year 6 cycling training fees
- Weekly 1:1 in school educational support to consolidate or extend (This support would continue for six years after the family no longer qualify, if their circumstances changed)

**We urge all families who may qualify for FSM to apply as the more children that qualify for Free School Meals at Abbey School, the more funding the school will receive for those identified children and for the benefit of all children.** The details of families who qualify for Free School Meals always remain confidential. Even if your child does not wish to have a school meal, please still make an application and take full advantage of all the other benefits on offer. The system for applying for free school meals is straightforward and is applied for online: [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org) or by phoning the Customer Service Centre: 01438 737370 or 01923 471370. Your application will be processed within 7 days.



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## Active Kids Vouchers

Thank you for collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers for our school which enables us to choose **free** sport items for all children to enjoy. The saving scheme came to an end on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and we are in the process of counting vouchers and getting ready for 'ordering'. I would like to ask if any remaining vouchers in purses, kitchen drawers etc could be handed into the School Office **by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May** after which date we will go and organise the order with Sainsbury's. Thank you very much for your support as always.

## House Points

The children in Key Stage 2 are divided between Houses: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Key Stage 2 House Points are shared and celebrated each Friday in assembly.

The children are working towards having the highest number of House Points each week. This term the children in the winning House at the end of each half term will have a non-uniform day on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July**, rather than just one reward day at the end of the full term.

The children have agreed the following guidelines with me on this awarded non-uniform day:

- Long hair down? Tied up for PE/swimming
- Hair gel? Yes but not if swimming
- Fancy dress? –Yes
- Jewellery? –No
- Own shoes? –Outside only
- Nail varnish? –No
- Make up?- No
- Hair coloured? –No
- Tattoos? – No

## Albantide Eucharist-Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

In the run up to the **Alban Pilgrimage on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 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** 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.

I wish you all a lovely weekend and a particular well done to Year 6 for getting through their SATS week this week.

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn  
Headteacher