



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents

Happy New Year and welcome back to the spring term here at school. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. The staff and I were touched by the Christmas cards, warm wishes and generous gifts from so many of you. We welcomed new Year 2 teacher Mrs Gaines who will be with us on a Monday and a Tuesday. We also welcomed two new children to Year 2, Jude Berro and Eduardo Reis this week who have settled well in their new class.

The important spring term diary dates were circulated to parents last week and have been uploaded to the school website for your reference. Attached to this newsletter is a parent eSafety newsletter produced by Herts for Learning. We will circulate this termly newsletter to parents and upload it to the eSafety page of the school website.

New layby sign in Grove Road

A surprise sign appeared in our school layby on Thursday without any warning.

We will arrange for a meeting with parking control to discuss this signage which indicates that vehicles are not allowed to park between 9am-5pm Monday-Friday in Grove Road in the school layby.

We were not informed of the new sign and do not know if the parking vouchers we issue from earlier conversations with parking control are valid anymore. I will keep you posted with developments. I would suggest not parking in the layby between these times until further notice.



Annual reminders of some key school rules

In order to get the New Year off to a good start, here are a few reminders:

Timing of the school day:

- Morning arrival in school from 8.45 am
- Start of school day 8.55 am.
- End of school day 3.20 pm

The school rules and home school agreement states: '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.' Children must be collected at 3.20pm. If for some reason you are unable to collect your child punctually at 3.20 pm (e.g. in traffic jam) please phone the school to notify us of the delay before 3pm. Children will be asked to wait in the library, and parents should come to the front door of the school to collect their child.



Healthy Schools





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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. Hertfordshire County Council has changed their School Closure Notification system.

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 new notification system has been put in place to enable messages from schools to be sent immediately via text message and email.

Parents must sign up to the new 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: member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489

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

Who can you speak to if you have any concerns about your child?

If you have any concerns regarding your child's learning or progress, please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance and a meeting can be arranged via the School Office. If you wish to speak to the Special Educational Needs teacher, Mrs Yeldham, this can also be done via the class teacher or via the School Office. Mrs Yeldham works on a Monday and Tuesday and she will be happy to discuss any concerns you might have.

After speaking to your child's teacher, if you still have concerns, you can speak to the deputy headteacher, Miss Felstead and appointments can be made via the School Office. As deputy headteacher, Miss Felstead will be happy to assist in my absence or to discuss any serious concern you may have that you feel have not or cannot be dealt with by the class teacher or appointments to see the headteacher can be made via the School Office after speaking to the class teacher.

Thursday Collective Worship

Our children enjoy a daily act of collective worship which takes place either in the school hall or in the Lady Chapel, where the whole school comes together to reflect in silence. Parents are welcome to attend and sit in the back two rows organ side and back three rows opposite to allow all the children and staff to sit down.

The Lady Chapel is just right for the whole school to be together to worship, but the high ceilings and open space make the sounds carry and noise can distract those children who read the lesson or lead any prayers. It is important to encourage the children and build their confidence so if any of the younger pre-school children at the back are disturbed, perhaps parents could take them out for a little while until they are settled. Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher