



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents,

The first full week of the autumn term is now complete and the Reception class is looking forward to being in school fulltime from Monday. A very warm welcome Zoe Tobin, the newest girl to join the Year 6 class, making the class complete. We have 209 children on roll with just one space in Year 2, we have 148 families at Abbey School at present.

Accompanying this newsletter you will find a year group specific **Curriculum Letter**. You will receive one at the start of each term outlining the curriculum content and important information from the class teacher regarding class arrangements. You will also receive a termly year group specific key **Vocabulary list** to help you and your child become more familiar with topic and subject words used in class.

We will be introducing a new **Key Stage 2 spelling scheme** this term so there will no longer be a weekly spelling test, although spellings will be sent home for you to look at with your child. A paper copy of the booklet explaining the new way of spellings and how you can help your child will be sent home today via your child's bag for children in Years 3-6.

Curriculum Information

The **whole school topic overview** for 2017/2018 is also attached to this newsletter. Later this term, year group specific long term plans giving parents a summary of the areas of study your child will be covering will be shared. Last year's documents can all be found on our school website, where the Curriculum page of the school website also contains long term subject plans that are being updated for this year. The webpage has helpful guides for parents: 'Hearing your Child Read at Home' and 'Helpful Handwriting Tips'. Information on Age Related Expectations for each year group will follow to parents.

Curriculum Meetings

The annual year group specific Curriculum Meetings, detailed on the autumn term dates and below, begin next week and it is an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and myself and to ask any questions about the curriculum and classroom arrangements. The meetings are really informative for parents and are held from 2.30-3.20pm in your child's classroom. Teachers will demonstrate some maths calculations to help familiarise parents with methods used in each year group. Please enter via the front door of school. Any parent unable to attend will receive any hand-outs, should there be any.

On occasions such as these, we politely ask parents to be mindful if you are planning to bring pre-school children to a meeting where a teacher is presenting to a large number of parents that your child is quiet and close to you during the talk so that staff can communicate effectively with all the parents in the room. The same applies to class assemblies, Collective Worship and performances. If your child is distressed at any time during an assembly or a meeting, we kindly ask that you comfort your child or remove them discreetly until they are settled when you are welcome to return. Thank you for your cooperation with this.





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Tuesday 19 th September	2.30-3.20pm Curriculum Meeting for parents – Reception
Friday 22 nd September	2.30-3.20pm Curriculum Meeting for parents – Year 3
Monday 25 th September	2.30-3.20pm Curriculum Meeting for parents – Year 5
Tuesday 26 th September	2.30-3.20pm Curriculum Meeting for parents – Year 2
Wednesday 27 th September	2.30-3.20pm Curriculum Meeting for parents – Year 4
Thursday 28 th September	2.30-3.20pm Curriculum Meeting for parents – Year 6
Friday 29 th September	2.30-3.20pm Curriculum Meeting for parents – Year 1

Reception Welcome Assembly

To welcome the new 30 Reception children officially, we will be holding their Welcome Assembly on Friday 29th September at 9.10am. Reception parents are warmly welcome to attend and the children will need their jumpers and cardigans (for the girls) in school so that their Year 6 Special Friend or sibling can put it on them!

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 of the Cathedral, where the whole school comes together to reflect in silence. Our new Reception children will join us for their first service on Thursday 21st September 2017. 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. We do politely request that parents allow the school children to remain in their class line and order as they process up and down the aisle to ensure that the staff can supervise the children easily allowing parents to wave from their seat.

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.

Father Richard's last Abbey School service will be on Thursday 28th September. The children will mark his departure during this intimate service. Father Berkeley will lead the weekly services, as he did this week, in the interim. We are all going to miss Father Richard greatly and wish him all the very best in his new role at St Saviours. Luckily he is remaining in St Albans so we will invite Father Richard to deliver some of our in school Collective Worship during the year as we continue to develop links with various local places of worship.

Are you a competent pianist? Do you have a free hour on a Thursday morning from 9am every three weeks?

A plea from our music teacher Mrs Price for pianists or organists for Thursday's Collective Worship. You do not need to be an experienced organist, just to be a competent pianist to play the small organ in the Lady Chapel. Mrs Price can show you the ropes. We have a rota and it usually equates to playing once every three weeks and the hymns are mostly from Come and Praise. Please email the School Office for further details.

Yours sincerely

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher