



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents,

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. **New this year**, 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.

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 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. **New this year**, all 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.

Tuesday 20 th September	Curriculum Meeting for parents 2.30-3.20pm	Reception
Wednesday 21 st September	Curriculum Meeting for parents 2.30-3.20pm	Year 5
Friday 23 rd September	Curriculum Meeting for parents 2.30-3.20pm	Year 3
Monday 26 th September	Curriculum Meeting for parents 2.30-3.20pm	Year 6
Tuesday 27 th September	Curriculum Meeting for parents 2.30-3.20pm	Year 2
Wednesday 28 th September	Curriculum Meeting for parents 2.30-3.20pm	Year 4
Thursday 29 th September	Curriculum Meeting for parents 2.30-3.20pm	Year 1

Reception Parents Welcome Assembly

To welcome the new 30 Reception children officially, we will be holding their Welcome Assembly on Friday 30th 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!

Child Protection

The welfare and care of each child is a responsibility shared by all who work in the school. If any concerns are raised that a child may be suffering from abuse or neglect, we have a legal obligation to report this to the Children, Schools and Families service.

The Headteacher is the Child Protection Officer and Miss Felstead (Year R teacher) is the Deputy Child Protection Officer. Updated child protection training is offered to all staff and governors. All adults





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coming into contact with children in school, potentially on a 1:1 basis, have been DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service, previously the Criminal Records Bureau check) and disqualification checked.

All volunteers will be asked to complete a childcare disqualification declaration form and read and sign our Volunteer Policy and Agreement, found on our school website. Volunteers will be required to attend a Volunteer Meeting, the next session will be on Friday 30th September 1.15-1.45pm.

Abbey School 'Late Summer Soiree' Fundraiser - 24th September 2016

The event will be held at school from 7.30pm-12am for parents to dance the night away! Tickets, £20, can be reserved via the School Office, (to be paid) via Schoolcomms gateway by Friday 23rd. The committee are looking for auction promises from parents, so please email your class rep with your suggestions and donations. Many thanks! Those requiring a vegetarian meal must notify the school office.

Abbey School Uniform

The logoed Abbey School polo shirt, stocked by Stevensons available both in the shop and online, has proved very popular and 99 have already been sold. The children wearing them look very smart and I have been informed that they wash well!

ALL CLOTHING, SHOES AND BAGS MUST BE CLEARLY AND PERMANENTLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

Boys Uniform

Light blue polo shirt
Navy blue embroidered sweatshirt
Grey trousers or grey tailored shorts
Grey or black socks
Sensible closed toe black shoes
Black indoor plimsolls
Winter: a warm waterproof coat is necessary
All year: A waterproof coat/cagoule to be kept in school

Girls Uniform

Light blue polo shirt
Navy embroidered sweatshirt or cardigan
Navy blue skirt or navy blue pinafore dress or navy blue smart trousers or navy blue tailored shorts
Summer: A blue and white checked dress (Optional)
Grey, white or navy blue socks
Grey or navy-blue tights
Black indoor plimsolls
Sensible closed toe black shoes – non heel or slip on
Winter: a warm waterproof coat is necessary
All year: A lightweight waterproof coat/cagoule to be kept in school
Navy blue or white hair ties for long hair and all hair accessories to be navy blue or white

PE (Both boys and girls)

White plain T-shirt (polo or round neck)
Embroidered school sports hooded jumper
Navy blue shorts
Trainers
Navy blue or white hair ties for long hair and all hair accessories to be navy blue or white



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Please note:

- Trousers, skirts and dresses can be purchased from the uniform departments of chain stores or Stevensons. Trousers reflecting 'high street' fashion or jeans style are not acceptable.
- Children need three pairs of shoes in school for indoor and outdoor wear. These should include one pair of black plimsolls, one pair of black leather school shoes and a pair of trainers for outdoor P.E.
- No jewellery, however, one pair of stud earrings and a watch are allowed.
- Long hair must to be tied back at all times. No makeup or nail varnish to be worn.
- No hair gel/ hair colouring or stencil designs.
- In the summer, sunscreen should be applied before school and a fabric sun hat can be worn. Sunglasses are not allowed.
- If the weather is wet or the ground is muddy children may walk to or from school in a pair of wellington boots.
- An embroidered navy school fleece and an embroidered fleece lined waterproof coat for outdoor wear are available through Stevensons. These are optional garments as is the navy blue basketball cap.

All school uniform can be purchased from:-

Stevensons
131-139 Victoria Street
St. Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 3XS
Tel: 01727 853262
www.stevensons.co.uk

Mobile Phones

We discourage the use of mobile phones on the school grounds by children. Children should not bring mobiles phones into school unless absolutely necessary. If brought to school by children in Years 5-6 they must be handed to their teacher at 8.55am and they must not be turned on until the children are off the school grounds. Children in Year 5 or 6 received in their July report envelope our mobile phone use agreement. Children below Year 5 are not allowed to bring a mobile phone to school. The mobile phone agreement has been devised by staff, parents and Governors.

St Albans School Partnership

As in previous years we are fortunate to have the opportunity of a partnership scheme with the St Albans School. As part of their community cohesion, the school offer us free specialist teaching in a number of areas on a Friday afternoon. Our Key Stage 2 classes will benefit from this partnership and I hope that the children enjoy this enrichment to the curriculum, we are very grateful to St Albans School for providing us with this opportunity.

This year, Year 3 will enjoy French sessions here at school on a Wednesday afternoon in the second half of the spring term, Year 4 will enjoy weekly art lessons at Abbey School for the whole of the spring term. During the entire summer term, Year 5 will participate in weekly Science sessions at St Albans School and Year 6 will enjoy weekly DT sessions at St Albans School.

Our Friday afternoon PE sessions with Mr Morgan will continue to be supported by Sixth Form students from St Albans School who are keen sportsman and woman and enjoy supporting the children in their skills and have proved to be excellent role models. Some St Albans School Sixth Form students also support children in the Year 6 classroom which has proved incredibly helpful in the past.

St Albans School Partnership Swimming



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We use St Albans School's swimming pool for weekly Key Stage 2 swimming lessons. Year 4 will swim in the autumn term. Year 5 will swim in the spring term and Year 3 will swim in the summer term.

Extreme Weather Conditions

Weather conditions such as today, can make our large and complex school site difficult to manage at the start of the day. We want to ensure that the school is not only open but safe for children, parents and staff. Thinking ahead, on days when we experience snow and icy conditions the school will always endeavour to clear pedestrian walkways to the school building.

If the conditions are severe, the entire school site may not be cleared in time for 8.45am. On these occasions we will ensure that the pedestrian walkways to the front door of school via the pedestrian gate at Grove Road and the pedestrian gate at Lady Spencer Grove are clear for the start of the day.

With a split level site we cannot always guarantee that the pathway from the Abbey Orchard gate is safely cleared in time, as parents and children walk across two playgrounds and it encompasses many flights of steps. Health and safety is always a priority and our flights of stairs could prove dangerous in adverse conditions. I hope you can understand that we have parents and children's safety in mind at all times if we do not open all three entrances to school. On such days, any assistance from parents is much appreciated, even from 7am or 8.45am.

To help you plan your journey to and from school on snowy and icy days it is best to rely on the clear access points of Grove Road and Lady Spencer Grove. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we try to provide a safe learning environment for your children.

School Closure Procedure

In the very rare event we were ever forced to close the school for health and safety reasons, please familiarise yourself with our school closure procedure. All parents would receive a text and an email if the school is closed, ideally between 6-7am, and notification may even be the night before.

A school closure will not be posted on the website or left on the school answering machine. You can also check if the school is closed on www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/schlife/schoolclose/ you should also listen to your local radio station.

The station will announce the school closures regularly throughout the 'Drivetime' slot in the morning and/or put a list of closed schools on their website if possible (please note that not all stations put the information on their website).

BBC Three Counties Radio 103.8fm/92.1fm/90.4fm/630mw/1161mw

Areas covered: The whole of Hertfordshire

www.bbc.co.uk/news/england/beds_bucks_and_herts/

Heart 96.6

Areas covered: Watford, Hemel Hempstead, St Albans, Rickmansworth, Berkhamstead, Redbourn, Borehamwood, Kings Langley, Radlett

www.heart.co.uk

Kind regards

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

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher