



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

Headteacher: Miss E. Fenn
Telephone: 01727 851802
Website: www.abbey.herts.sch.uk
Email: admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk

Grove Road
St Albans
Herts
AL1 1DQ

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Dear Parents

Children in Need

We raised a fantastic £210 for Children in Need today. The children and staff looked fabulous in their spots/stripes/bear ears or dressed as super heroes!

Key Stage 1 Nativity

All Key Stage 1 children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children) will perform in both Nativity performances of 'A Home of Our Own' on Tuesday 5th December at 6pm and during school hours on Wednesday 6th December. Key Stage 2 children will watch the performance at the dress rehearsal on Monday 4th December.

Children in Years Reception, 1 and 2 will need to be at school at 5.30pm for the evening performance on Tuesday 5th December when the doors open for the audience for the 6pm performance. After the matinee performance on Wednesday 6th December, the children will return to class and be collected at 3.20pm as per normal. Both performances will hold a retiring collection that will be shared between Great Ormond Street Hospital and Abbey School resources.

Tickets for Key Stage 1 families to see 'A Home of Our Own' will be sent home via children on Monday 20th November. With 90 children performing, each Key Stage 1 family will be issued with two tickets for the evening performance on the Tuesday and two tickets for the matinee performance on the Wednesday. Parents are free to exchange their allocated tickets amongst themselves and return any unwanted tickets to the School Office ASAP. The School Office has no spare tickets, but the returned tickets will be given out on a first come first served basis to names on the request list which we will compile from Tuesday 21st November.

The School Hall has capacity for 160 adults when the stage is in place with 90 children performing. Every person watching must have a ticket which will be collected by the Headteacher on arrival.

There will be no parking for buggies inside the school (hall or library) due to ensuring that fire exits are clear. No parents will be allowed to stand at the back without a ticket. As always, a polite request that if you choose to bring a toddler (2 years and above) they must have a seat (restricted view) and a ticket and we ask that our youngest actors are able to have our full attention and that children are removed if distressed and distracting to our children performing.

Please be mindful if you are planning to bring pre-school children that they are quiet and close to you during the performance so that every voice is heard on the stage. If your child is distressed at any time, we ask that you comfort your child or remove them discreetly until they are settled when you are welcome to return. The production is designed for parent's pleasure as school age children will have already watched the dress rehearsal. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



Healthy Schools





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Key stage 1 Nativity DVD

A professional DVD recording will be made of the Key Stage 1 nativity 'A Home of our Own'. 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 again, which has an excellent reputation for producing quality DVD recordings for schools and filmed our latest productions.

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 Friday 8th 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.

School Christmas Tree

Our school Christmas tree is being donated by Aylett Nurseries again this year and our children will decorate the tree in the week leading up to the Christmas Fair, week beginning Monday 27th 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.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 1st December

In preparation for the Fair, children can wear non-uniform to school on Friday 1st December in return for a donation of a bottle of wine or similar for the bottle tombola or a smart box of sweets/chocolates for tombola prizes.

Christmas Fundraising at the Christmas Fair Saturday 2nd December 12-3pm

Our Christmas Fair promises to be a festive fun day for all the family! Please do come along and look out for our Year 6 Young Apprentices and of course Santa Claus is coming to town!

To tempt your taste buds there will be a variety of tasty treats to buy. All of the money raised at the Christmas Fair will go towards the Friend's Association fund raising target to upgrade our school facilities for the children.

Christmas Post Box

Our school Christmas post box will be ready for use from Monday 4th 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.



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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!

Advent Eucharist

The Advent Eucharist will be on **Thursday 7th December** from 9.15-10.15am in the Crossing. The seating for Advent will be organised as it was for Harvest. The children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will sit in the choir stalls. Parents are invited to sit by the High Altar.

Reception and Year 1 will sit in the Crossing by the pulpit. Year 3 will sit opposite the pulpit and Year 2 will be split on both sides of the Crossing. Parents with prams may find it difficult to sit by the altar and may prefer to sit closer to the Rose Window, behind the children, where steps will not cause an issue.

We thank you in your advance for being sensitive of the school children's needs whilst they are singing, performing and praying. We understand that seating is tight, but we thank you in advance for your patience with allowing the school children to be seated before any spare seats behind the children are filled by parents with prams.

St Albans Abbey Christingle Service - Sunday 10th December

All are welcome to this enjoyable candlelit service at 3pm at the Cathedral. This traditional service is loved by children and adults alike, as we look forward to the coming of Christ, Light of the world. A collection will be taken for the Children's Society.

Carol Service – Wednesday 13th December

Our very special whole school Carol Service will be held in the Nave of the Cathedral on Wednesday 13th December from 1.30-2.30pm. This is an event not to be missed. Mrs Price and the children have been working very hard in preparation for this event and will showcase their collective talents. This is a non-ticket event and parents and friends and family are warmly welcome. The children will return to school as normal and be collected at 3.20pm.

In both the Advent Eucharist and Carol service, we politely request that parents allow the school children to remain in their class line and order as they process in and out of the Cathedral, especially Reception, to ensure that the staff can supervise the children easily. We do ask parents not to take photographs during the Cathedral services.

Kind regards

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

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher