



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Thursday Collective Worship

The Lady Chapel is just right for the whole school to be together for 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 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.

Our children enjoy a daily act of collective worship which takes place either in the school hall or the Lady Chapel where they come together as a whole school and reflect in silence. On Thursday 24th March the Thursday service will take place in school at 9.10am. Parents are welcome to attend and may enter the hall from 8.55am and we hope will support us with our reflective worship environment.

Communion Club

Children in Year 2 and above are invited to be part of this year's Cathedral Communion Club, to be held during the 9.30am Parish Eucharist on 15 & 22 May, 5 & 19 June and 3 July. Children are expected to attend all the meetings. Admission to Communion will be on 10 July. There will be an introductory meeting for children and parents on Sunday 17 April after the Parish Eucharist in the Crypt. Contact Maggie York to register (01727 890233 subdeanpa@stalbanscathedral.org)

Book Week 2016

Last week the whole school enjoyed a fabulous Book Week. Thank you to all the staff, parents and children for making the week such a memorable occasion. One of the highlights was a two day visit by a performance poet, Professor Pango Mango, who joined us to perform and write poetry with all classes in the school.

The Professor was able to combine his own poetry with that of the work of Lewis Carrol. He used the idea of 'The Mad Hatter' to perform poems using different hats to share character poems. Children were encouraged to join in and act some of the poems out.

- In Reception, the children performed call and response poems: 'The Caterpillar,' 'Put Your Helmet On,' 'Apple and Pumpkin' and of course, 'The Flamingo.'
- In Years 1 and 2, the classes enjoyed joining in with 'Mrs Snooty,' 'Family Policeman' and 'The Crazy Chef' poems. They also did 'Put Your Helmet On' and 'Flamingo.'
- In Years 3 and 4, the classes did 'the hat poems' but also performed Lewis Carroll's 'The Lobster Quadrille' and 'Beautiful Soup.'



Healthy Schools



- In Years 5 and 6, Professor Pango Mango not only performed 'the hat poems' but also looked at the comic poem of the Mad Hatter and so wrote their own limericks, clerihews and nonsense verse which they performed for the class.

The poetry of Lewis Carrol is about playfulness and rhyme and making poetry accessible to all. The Professor agrees with this and was happy to report that in every class the children joined in and performed brilliantly.

If you want to write your own limerick, the Professor gives you this formula to use at home:

A limerick's cleverly versed

The second line rhymes with the first

The third is short

The fourth's the same sort

And the last line is often the worst.

In the meantime, ask the children to teach you 'The Flamingo' poem.

The decision on the Best Costume was very hard for the teachers to make and the winning costumes are below. Mrs Johnston was blown away with the quality and number of the entries for the Library Competitions, again making the decision making process very difficult. The entries were so good that we have made year group books of all the entries in the Library for children to read.

Book Week 2016 Competition Winners							
	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Best Costume	'Jam-Pire' Sam Ball	'Paddington Bear' Romilly Veal	'Alice in Wonderland Queen of Hearts' Olive Anderson Beaman	'The Hobbit' Bill Matthews	'St Trinians' Henry Johnston	'TinTin' Frank Fermor	'Alice in Wonderland Dormouse and Teapot' Francesca Hill
Library Competitions	Otto Forkin Riley Medd	Fabian Hall Olivia Waller	Millie Oaten Molly Ling	Daniel Heycock Alice Strike	Alice Ling Theerta Senthilkumar Gandhimathi	Peter Moore Alice Persse	Hannah Barker

Netball Tournament

On Saturday, seven of our Year 5 and 6 netballers took part in the St Albans Schools netball tournament. The girls: Hannah Barker, Mili Branston, Xanthe Elliot, Ruby Fermour, Scarlett Gardiner, Sophia Pole and Helena Young, played five matches against other St Albans small schools. The girls played brilliantly and won four of the five matches. The girls won 1 nil against Maple, 6-1 against Skyswood, 4-1 against Park Street and 4-2 against St Peters. The girls only lost one match and that was to Howwood.

The girls played so well that they were joint first place in their group and only missed out playing in the finals on goal difference. Sarah Ward, the netball coach and I were so proud of the girls and their motivation and perseverance shown throughout the afternoon. The girls were thrilled to be awarded the Daphne Payne trophy for fair play and sportsmanship. I heard yesterday that the tournament was won by Maple School who we defeated in our first match, so well done Abbey girls!



I wish you all a nice weekend.

Remember that we have a four day week next week as Friday 25th March is Good Friday and we have a long weekend with Easter Monday on the 28th March.

Handwritten signature of Miss Emma Fenn in black ink.

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher