



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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11 September 2015

Dear Parents,

Information for parents of children in Year 1-6

Following the introduction of the New National Curriculum for Years 1-6 last September and the removal of levels as a form of assessment the staff have compiled helpful parent packs of examples of Age Related Expectations (ARE) for children in Year 1-6 and for each subject. Attached to this newsletter you will find the ARE document relevant to your child. This is not an exhaustive list and is purely a guide to help parents see suggested 'I Can' Statements that the staff would expect to see accomplished in school consistently by the end of the year as we make our judgements to assess the children. Not all of the 'I Can' Statements have to be met to assess your child as working at ARE as it is best fit.

At the end of the year your child's attainment will be assessed using the phrases:

- working at the expected range of attainment for his/her age (ARE)
- working just within the expected range of attainment
- working below the expected range of attainment
- exceeding the expected range of attainment

The examples of ARE are designed to help parents understand how to help their child at home. These documents are not designed for children.

Curriculum information for all parents

The whole school topic overview for 2015/2016 is attached to this newsletter along with your child's relevant long term year group plan to give you a summary of the areas of study your child will be covering. These documents complement the Curriculum Letter, also attached, which you will receive at the start of each term outlining in more detail the curriculum content this term and important information from the class teacher regarding class arrangements. These documents can all be found on our school website. The curriculum page of the school website also contains long term subject plans that are being updated for this year as the curriculum evolves.

Curriculum Meetings

The annual year group specific Curriculum Meetings, detailed on the autumn term dates, 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





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parents and are held from 2.45-3.15pm in your child's classroom. Please enter via the front door of school. Any parent unable to attend will receive any hand-outs, should there be any.

Monday 21 st September	2.45-3.15pm Curriculum Meeting for parents - Year 5
Tuesday 22 nd September	2.45-3.15pm Curriculum Meeting for parents - Year 4
Wednesday 23 rd September	2.45-3.15pm Curriculum Meeting for parents - Year 6
Thursday 24 th September	2.45-3.15pm Curriculum Meeting for parents - Year 1
Friday 25 th September	2.45-3.15pm Curriculum Meeting for parents - Year 3
Monday 28 th September	2.45-3.15pm Curriculum Meeting for parents - Year 2

End of Key Stage Assessments

Children in Year 2 and Year 6 will be assessed as they reach the end of their Key Stage in the summer term. We will hold separate meetings for parents later in the year as the criteria for these assessments was only released yesterday and the training for teachers will be rolled out by Herts County Council in the next few weeks. The children in these year groups will no longer receive a Levelled grade for reading, writing, maths and science. The assessment arrangements for 2015/2016 are being called 'interim assessment arrangements' and will be very different from any previous assessments carried out and will be in place for this year only.

Reception Parents Welcome Assembly

To welcome the new 30 Reception children officially, we will be holding their Welcome Assembly on Wednesday 23rd 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!

Abbey School Volunteers

The staff of The Abbey Primary School are very pleased to welcome and engage with voluntary helpers who are keen to work alongside them in school. We believe it is of great value to the children and to the whole school community. It is important that the relevant roles are fully understood from the outset in order to avoid any blurring of roles and to ensure confidentiality for all children.

In support of this, the school ensures that volunteers are appropriately vetted and provided with training, guidance, support and supervision. As a school we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in our care; we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. If you wish to help in school with 1:1 reading, school trips and the swimming rota, you may well be asked to undergo a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service, previously the Criminal Records Bureau check) and **you will be asked to complete a childcare disqualification declaration form and read and sign our Volunteer Policy and Agreement which can be found on our school website.**

If you would like to volunteer this year, you do not need to do anything at this moment in time. After the completion of the seven Curriculum Meetings I will hold Volunteer Meetings for parents to attend who wish to volunteer to join me in the School Hall to discuss the details of the policy and why it has been introduced to safeguard all.



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Promoting British Values at The Abbey CE VA Primary School

The Department for Education have reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**" We have a statement about each of these British Values on our school website.

Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, Green Council and Faith Council and regular pupil questionnaires. The elections of these Councils each year are based solely on pupil votes. Over the next few weeks children in Year 1-6 will be able to stand for election for these posts. Two representatives are voted for by their class for each Council. Children have to prepare a short speech to the class to explain why they would be a strong representative and what ideas they have. The teachers have a record of prior Council membership, but not all children want to stand for election and this has to be respected. Children are not allowed to stand for the same Council two years in a row.

The democratically elected children will then be awarded their enamelled Council badges and I am sure they will bring many interesting and sensible suggestions from their classes. The **School Council** will meet with the headteacher at least twice a term to discuss issues and ideas to improve Abbey School. Debbie Gupta, Chair of the Governing Body, is looking forward to meeting the children to listen to their thoughts and ideas.

The **Faith Council** will meet at least twice a term with Mrs Yates, our RE Coordinator, to help shape our RE lessons and Collective Worship both at school and in the Abbey. Father Richard will also attend some meetings as will our RE and Collective Worship Governor, Linda Marchment.

The **Green Council** will meet with Miss Dunn, our DT and Garden Coordinator, at least twice a term to discuss issues and ideas to improve the school grounds and garden, promote recycling, sustainability and environmental issues. The Green Council will meet with the Site Manager and the team of parent school gardeners to discuss ideas and potential projects, including ideas for Sustainability Week in November.

In addition Year 6 positions of responsibility which the children must write an application for will be: two Music Captain posts, four Buddy roles, two Sports Bronze Ambassadors and several Sports Leaders who will be working closely with Mrs Cole to organise various sporting events for Reception - Year 6 each term. These sports events will be planned by the Bronze Ambassadors and then led by the Bronze Ambassadors and Sports Leaders. The applications will be assessed by senior staff. All Year 6 children have the additional responsibility of being a Special Friend to a Reception child, manning the School Office in pairs during lunchtimes with a member of admin staff and taking turns reading the Bible verse in the Lady Chapel on a Thursday in our Collective Worship.

Best wishes

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

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher