



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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18th November 2016

Dear Parents

Advent Eucharist – Thursday 24th November postponed

Our Advent Eucharist was due to be in the Crossing next Thursday in St Albans Abbey. Sadly the Cathedral have double booked the Crossing and the Nave and we will not be able to hold our Advent Eucharist that day. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. We will hold our weekly collective worship as normal instead in the Lady Chapel from 9.15-9.45am. Parents are always welcome to attend this service and sit in the back two rows organ side and back three rows on the opposite side to allow all the children and staff to sit down. We have a strong regular congregation of parents, but sadly this venue is not big enough for the number of parents that normally attend the Advent Eucharist, nor is the school hall. For those parents invited to the Helpers Tea in the School hall from 10.30-11.30am on Thursday 24th November this will still take place.

The new date for the Advent Eucharist will be Wednesday 30th November from 9.15-10.15am in the Crossing. The following day, Thursday 1st December, there will be the weekly act of Collective Worship as per normal.

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.

School Orchestra

The school orchestra do not perform in the Advent Eucharist service. They will have an orchestra rehearsal as normal on Wednesday 23rd November in afternoon and will perform at the Helper's Tea on Thursday 24th November at 10.30am, so children will need their instrument in school for these two consecutive days. Wednesday 23rd November will be the last orchestra rehearsal this term.

Children in Need

We raised £203 for Children in Need today. The children looked fabulous in their spots/stripes/ bear ears or dressed as super heroes!



Healthy Schools





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Football Team Win

Well done to our football team who have won their second match of the season 3-2 against Colney Heath Primary School yesterday. Well done to Ollie Arnold, Finn Ball, Henry Ball, Bradley Clark, Ollie Colman, Sai Fisher, Freddie Hicks, Henry Johnston, Charlie Robinson and Freddie Roe!

Cross Country Team Success

Abbey School have competed in three events recently against small and large St Albans primary schools. The squad of 12 Year 5 and 6 boys and girls have run 1KM with determination and should be proud of their placing out of over 120 runners in each race. Year 6 Hannah Read has won all three events and Year 6 Sia Fisher was delighted to come in as our second fastest girl in 11th place overall. Year 6 Freddie Roe was thrilled to come in 37th place in his first ever event. Well done to all our sportsmen and women who have represented our school.

School Christmas Tree and Decorations

Our school Christmas tree is being donated by Aylett Nurseries again this year on Monday 28th November and our children will decorate the Christmas tree in a morning assembly on **Tuesday 29th 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. 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.

Christmas Fundraising at the Christmas Fair Saturday 3rd 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.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 2nd December

In preparation for the Fair, children can wear non-uniform to school on Friday 2nd 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 Fair reminders from Shirley Anderson, Chair of the Friends':

- **Raffle tickets** have been sent home with your child please deposit any monies in a sealed envelope and post into the Friends post box in the school entrance. CHEQUE payments are welcome - cheques made out to "**Friends of Abbey JMI School**". Please return any unsold tickets to the Friends box.
- **Hamper contributions** - money donations by Friday 2nd December in an envelope in Friends post box or luxury Christmas food item or new toy.
- **Donations of books and pre-owned toys** especially dressing up/dolls and accessories/action men/transformers.
- **Cake Sale** - please bring your cakes or mince pies to the library on Friday 2nd December.
- **Class reps will be signing up volunteers - please help!! We need you! Your partner! Your parents!**

Thank you for all your efforts, the fairs are our biggest fundraisers and none of this would be possible without you. Don't forget to sign up to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbeycofejmi/ for all your online Christmas shopping and earn the school money.



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St Albans Abbey Christingle Service - Sunday 4th 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.

School Car Park

Please can I remind parents that there is **no parking in the school carpark** during the school day or at the end of the day (3-4.30pm). **Cars must not block other cars in.** Tuesdays and Wednesdays are particularly congested days in the car park due to increased staff numbers on these days. Due to the congestion in the car park, we are sadly no longer in a position to offer temporary parking vouchers for parents as we have in the past for those with new born babies due to the associated risks of such a busy car park.

If parents are picking up from an after-school club from 4.30-5.30pm they are welcome to park in the lower half of the school car park in a marked bay, space permitting. We ask parents to avoid the upper car park, marked for staff. The same applies to parents dropping off for Lindees breakfast club. Cars must not block other cars in.

School Layby in Grove Road

May I ask parents to be mindful when parking in one of the four spaces in Grove Road. Cars must not park with a wheel on the pavement, especially in the first and last space as the distance left for cars to get through is too tight. Two residents have asked me this term to consider not allowing parents to park in this bay as unsafe parking has caused issues as the gap left in the road is too narrow. Vehicles have been damaged or the road has been blocked. There is resident parking opposite the layby and if both sides of the road are full, drivers must only park if they can ensure that cars can get past in the road as I have experienced difficulty turning out of the school car park or driving past the layby to get to sporting fixtures at the end of the day.

Extreme Weather Conditions

Thinking ahead, with potential future unpredictable weather conditions, our large and complex school site can make the start of the day difficult in ensuring the school is not only open but safe for children, parents and staff. 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 Councils and Roles of Responsibility

Congratulations to the democratically elected School Council representatives from Year 1-6 below who have now been awarded their enamelled Council badges and I am sure they will bring many interesting and sensible suggestions from their classes.



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	School Council Representatives 2016 2107	Green Council Representatives 2016 2017	Faith Council Representatives 2016 2017
Year 1	Leo Gardner Riley Medd	Daisy Oaten Amelia Crook	Otto Forkin Oliver Bennett-Velasco
Year 2	Olivia Waller Kaspar Van Rooijen-Din	Harry Stewart Melissa Jacobson	Sophie Bunting Alex Keenan
Year 3	Rowen Ryan Daniel Ricks	Sedona De Silva Oscar Roe	Jack Bryan Michael Keenan
Year 4	David Hardie Robert Johnson	Bill Matthews Alice Strike	Lotta Craze James Good
Year 5	Joseph Tanner Alice Ling	Darcey Dembek Fadi Hanania	Oliver Ricks Evie Rosewell
Year 6	Bradley Clarke Katia Lewis	Henry Lawrenson Charlie Robinson	John-Ellis Wallace Noah Lima

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. Children are not allowed to stand for the same Council two years in a row.

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 Mr Hollick to discuss ideas and potential projects.

Year 6 Responsibilities

All Year 6 children look forward to the responsibility of being a Special Friend to a Reception child. In addition, Year 6 children enjoy taking turns reading the Bible passage in the Lady Chapel on a Thursday in our Collective Worship.

Year 6 children can apply for additional positions of responsibility such as Librarians, Music Captains and sporting Bronze Ambassadors. New this year, Year 6 children have been able to apply for the roles of Playground Buddies and wear our new high visibility vests on the Key Stage 1 and 2 playgrounds to help initiate play for those who would like to get involved.

Congratulations to our Year 6 Librarians, Sports Bronze Ambassadors, Music Captains and Playground Buddies who are proudly wearing their new badges and excited about their role of responsibility within the school, as well as being a role model to others.



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Year 6 Music Captains 2016 2107

Etienne Carpenter

Fraser Hauser

Year 6 Sports Bronze Ambassadors 2016 2107

Sai Fisher

Freddie Roe

Year 6 Librarians 2016 2107

Amandine Geurts
Ben Graham
Stephanie Lawrence
Emily Payne
Ella Snailham
John-Ellis Wallace

	INFANT PLAYGROUND BUDDY	JUNIOR PLAYGROUND BUDDY
Autumn	Tallulah Windsor-Williams Hugh Edwards	Katia Lewis Ruby Fermor
1st half of Spring	Sai Fisher Ollie Colman	Freddie Roe Ella Snailham
2nd half of Spring	Etienne Carpenter Noah Lima	Ben Graham John-Ellis Wallace
1st half of Summer	Bradley Clarke Amandine Geurts	Sai Fisher Ollie Colman
2nd half of Summer	Freddie Roe Hannah Read	Ollie Arnold Hugh Edwards

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher