



# The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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**Grove Road**  
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**AL1 1DQ**

20 January 2017

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 academic 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. Year 4's vocabulary list will be sent home next week due to Mrs Yates' absence this week. All of last term's documents can be found on the school website.

Also attached to this newsletter you will find a list of February half term clubs for children run by St Albans Plus Partnership that might be relevant to you. On Thursday every child went home with a yellow challenge 4 life pack in their school bag which you and your child might find of interest with stickers and quiz cards inside on food awareness.

## **New layby sign in Grove Road**

Last week a surprise sign appeared in our school layby without any warning. **Parents are receiving penalty parking fines** if parked in the layby during the hours of 9-5pm Monday-Friday.

Parents are also receiving parking tickets if parked in Grove Road as this is residents parking only. Neighbours have complained about poor parking in the layby which causes the road to be blocked and the curb mounted. Neighbours inform me that their complaints have resulted in the layby signs being issued.

The parking vouchers our school issued from earlier conversations with parking control are not valid anymore. **Neighbours ask parents not to block their driveways, even for a few minutes. As it stands, parents can only park in Holywell Hill in the pay and display parking bays if displaying the school voucher. Parents do not have any permission to park in Grove Road at all at this moment in time.**



I have arranged a meeting with parking control on Monday to discuss this signage and to find a way forward. I will keep you up to date with the outcome.

## **Parents' Evening – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Parents' Evening will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. The School uses an easy-to-use online appointment booking system. Mrs Yeldham, our SENCO, is available on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February and appointments can be made to see both your child's teacher and Mrs Yeldham if your child has Special Educational Needs.





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**These meetings are for parents only. There will be no supervision for school age or pre-school children on site.** Appointments will run strictly on time to allow parents to organise childcare arrangements off-site, potentially with other parents.

Year 2 appointments will be held on both nights by both Mrs Easby and Mrs Gaines jointly, although when you log into the system only Mrs Easby's name will appear. Year 6 appointments will be run by Mrs Brooks on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February and by Mrs Berrington and Mr Silver on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February from shared notes so it does not matter which teacher you meet with. On the Thursday only Mrs Berrington's name will appear although Mr Silver will join her.

Appointments can be made from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 from 7am and will close on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7am. Should you wish to make any changes after 7am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, please contact the School Office. Please do not swap appointments between parents. Please visit <https://abbeyprimaryschool.parenteveningsystem.co.uk> to book your appointments. Everything you need can be found on the school website on the Parent Information tab, followed by Key Information and then Parent Consultation Evenings. Please login with the following information: Child's legal first name, Child's surname and date of birth.

If you are unable to attend the set evenings. A 10 minute consultation to meet with the class teacher can be arranged via the School Office after February half term. Please note, this appointment will be 10 minutes still. If your child has more than one teacher, only one teacher will be available for this late consultation appointment and you may not be able to specify which teacher you meet with so that the teachers can share the amount of consultations they hold.

## Parent Governor Forum

Following on from last year's successful introduction of Parent Governor Forums the governing body have planned two dates to put in your diary. The first forum for this academic year will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March in the school hall from 7.30-8.30pm. The content of this meeting will focus on academy status and the vision and values for our school. The governors would like parental involvement in this important aspect of our school as we revisit it. We will share the School Development Plan objectives for the year ahead. The summer term forum will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June from 7.30-8.30pm. We hope to see many of you in attendance and it is a wonderful opportunity to meet members of the governing body, many of which are new this year.

## Assistants for the day





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As part of the fundraising for Abbey School parents were able to bid for their child to act as an assistant member of staff for the day at the Late Summer Soiree. The funds raised from the Late Summer Soiree will be used to redecorate the toilet facilities for the children, especially the Key Stage 2 boy's toilet that is much in need of freshening up.

Jackson in Year 3 had a super day helping Mr Hollick as the Assistant Site Manager for the day on a particularly snowy and icy day. Tilly, also in Year 3, was Assistant Headteacher for the day as we made important decisions on how to keep the children safe on such a tricky site during bad weather. Daisy and I also visited the Cathedral and met with the Head Verger, Paul Underhill, and we were able to hold the precious verge and mace used in services.

Tilly's sister Daisy in Year 5 worked with Mr Morgan for the day as Assistant Sports Coach. She was able to work with all the classes and particularly enjoyed giving out the awards in assembly. Shannon, also in Year 5, enjoyed being front of house with Mrs Upton as Assistant Office Manager. Shannon enjoyed answering the telephone and learnt how to make documents into pdfs and sent the newsletter out via Schoolcomms.

## **The Friends Association – message from the chair**

The Friends Association would like to say a massive thank you to all the children, parents and staff who contributed to the incredible success of this year's Christmas Fair, the profit for this event alone was a fantastic **£5,325.39**, the best year yet. The Year 6 Junior apprentice initiative raised £800 towards this fantastic total. Without the generosity of our Abbey families this would not be possible. Some of the funds raised will purchase a new whole school spelling scheme and extensively supplement the Oxford Reading Tree books for children in Years 1-4.

## **Friends' Disco – change of date**

The Key Stage 1 and 2 disco planned for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January has been rearranged for the following Friday, **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**. Tickets must be bought in advance for Abbey School children. The Key Stage 1 disco is from 3.30-4.30pm and children bring their disco clothes to school in a named carrier bag in the morning. The junior children come dressed in their disco clothes at 5pm and will require a prompt pick up at 6pm from the front door of school.

## **Friends' forthcoming fundraising events are;**

- KS1 & 2 children Disco Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February-Key Stage 1: 3.30-4.30pm/ Key Stage 2: 5-6pm
- Parents Quiz Night (80's theme) Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 for 8pm start
- Children's Sponsored Bounce event Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 2/3 Home baked Cake Sale Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March
- St Albans Half Marathon Marshalling Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June
- Summer Fair Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July – 12-3pm
- We are also looking into a ladies pamper evening April/May.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Shirley Anderson - Chair of Friends.

We are raising free donations for Abbey CE VA Primary School, simply by shopping online. Join the fundraising revolution! <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbeycofejmi>

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn  
Headteacher