



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents

Book Week

Once again, our annual Book Week was a huge success. A selection of photographs can be found on the school website and a display of all photographs will be up shortly as you enter the hall. The visitors were all well received and the costumes looked fantastic on Thursday. Friday's Book Fair was a roaring success raising £159 worth of books for the School Library. Thanks to Krista for her help on that day, if you missed out on ordering an Usborne book Krista is happy to give you a copy of the catalogue. Thank you to all the staff and parents who made it such an enjoyable week for the children.



Red Nose Day

Abbey School was a sea of red on Friday 13th March as we all dressed in red for Red Nose Day. We raised £187.46 for the charity with our non-uniform day. That weekend, Year 6 children Raif Fisher, Asha Banks and Islay Meadows sold loom bands and Asha sang to raise an extra £20.07 for the charity making a grand total of £207.53.

Sponsored Bounce

The sea of red children were luckily not seasick as on Friday they thoroughly enjoyed bouncing! Can we please ask for the Sponsored Bounce money to be returned before the end of term. Thank you very much for your support.





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Abbey Advertiser

Year 5 girls (Beth Barker, Mili Branston, Tilly Craze, Xanthe Elliott, Iorwen Ellis, Jemima Samols and Amelie Windsor Williams) who created and sold the School Magazine made £63.59 for their chosen charity Water Aid. Well done girls!

Parent Governor Vacancy

As you know, The Abbey CE VA Primary School Governing Body has a vacancy for one additional parent governor. We are delighted to have so many parents who would like to support the school in this way.

Following a skills audit, The Abbey School Governing Body feel that they would be strengthened by a new parent governor who has broader experience of governance, and particularly any of the following skills:

- **Motivated to drive school improvement**
- **Willing to promote the Christian ethos of the school**
- **Understand the importance of confidentiality and consent to the Governors Code of Conduct**
- **Capacity to attend meetings**
- **Experience in Human Resources and or recruitment**
- **Experience of facilities or premises management.**

The personal statements from each of the nominees were sent home to all parents on Tuesday and can be found on the governor's page on the school website: <http://www.abbey.herts.sch.uk/our-school/whos-who/governors/> Please return your vote to the school office by 3.20pm on Tuesday 31st March 2015.

Music Instrumental Lessons

Just a reminder that half a terms notice must be given in writing if you wish your cancel your child's music lesson. For an end date of May half term - written notice must be given to the School Office by end of spring term, Thursday 2nd April.

Reporting of Child Absence

If your child is unwell and will not be at attending school, please could you telephone the School Office by 9.30am where a telephone message can be left. Many thanks.



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Swimming Success at the Hertfordshire Swimming Championships

The championships began last week and quite a few of the Abbey School girls have taken part - Eilidh, Florie and Amandine, Beth and Hannah, and improved their personal bests. Eilidh came first in the 10 year old girls 200m backstroke (8 lengths). Amandine and Florie swam really well and came 4th in their events and narrowly missed out on a medal.

Fingers crossed for all the girls who are swimming this weekend, including Jemima Samols who swims in her first event. Unfortunately last weekend the pool was so cold that the competition was abandoned after the first event and restarted on the Sunday when the pool had warmed up.

Eilidh's and Florie's races are on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ql1Xm63ZSBw&list=PLCBINMBzomATIXmIOYOU2msyOX8s8yMT8&index=3>

Eilidh's is Session 6, Event 29, H7 Women's 200 Backstroke which is around 1hr 15mins and 10 secs into the video and takes approx. 3 mins. She is in Lane 2 which is towards the right of the screen.



Florie's race is in the same event and is around 1 hr 26mins and 30 secs in the video. Session 6, Event 29, H10 Women's 200 Backstroke. She is also in Lane 2 towards the right of the screen.

School Swimming Squad

It is a very busy weekend for swimming! Good luck also to the Year 5 and 6 school team swimming in the St Albans Primary Schools Swimming Gala this Saturday at Hertfordshire University pool.

- The boy's team: Dubem Okoye, Raif Fisher, James Burden, Christy Shaw, Ben Hawker, Ollie Chow, Max Manning and Lucas Manning as reserve.
- The girl's team: Jemima Samols, Riko Soehima, Allie Snailham, Xanthe Elliot, Hannah Barker, Beth Barker and Amelie Windsor-Williams.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

We are collecting the Sainsbury's get Active vouchers again and would gratefully receive any vouchers you get given when doing your weekly shop. There is a collecting box in the entrance at school. Thank you very much.



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IMPORTANT CLUB INFORMATION

Netball Club - open to Year 4 for the summer term

We are fortunate to have skilled netball coach Helen Twining teach the Year 5 and 6 netballers after school each Tuesday from 3.30-4.30pm. The girls played hard in Saturdays St Albans Schools Tournament and the five matches honed the girls skills. Helen would like to invite any keen netballers in the current Year 4 class to join the club for the summer term to begin training early, ready for Year 5. Mrs Johnston's daughter, Molly, will be assisting with the training for the summer term to enable the increase in numbers. The summer term clubs list will be sent to parents in the last week of the spring term.

Football Clubs - changes to year groupings

For the entire spring term I have found it very difficult to ensure that Abbey School had a complete squad of Year 5 and 6 children to represent the school in football fixtures. On occasion, I have had to ask Year 4 children to join the team without attending the squad training as I have not been able to have seven boys who can play in the match. Some Year 5 and 6 children have been committed for the two terms and we could not have managed without the support from the boys and their families.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, last week there was only one boy at football squad training. This week there was an improvement, but there were only six for the two coaches. I want to ensure that the children get high quality coaching and that a trained team of children can be selected to compete in matches and represent the school. I work hard to ensure that there is always a training session on a Tuesday from 3.30-4.30pm, regardless if some children are playing in a match.

To this end, I have had to reorganise the way in which the summer term football clubs will run to ensure that we have the right club matched to the needs of the children and the school. This will be reviewed on a termly basis. APB will no longer provide an afterschool football club for Abbey School. **Football's Future will provide a KS1 club for Year 1 and 2 children on the Monday 3.30-4.30pm.** They will also provide a **KS2 club on a Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.** The KS2 club will be run by Steve Morgan and Donnie Campaniello. One of the coaches will accompany me and the selected team to any fixtures. Only children in Years 4, 5 and 6 are allowed to play in fixtures for health and safety rules. These are set externally. The team chosen to represent the school will be selected from those children regularly attending training sessions who form a strong team to compete and represent the school.



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This matter has been given considerable thought all term and will be reviewed at the end of the summer term. The younger KS2 children will benefit from joining the older KS2 children to develop everyone's performance and allow numbers to be sufficient to have practice matches which may take place on the Abbey Orchard. The aim is that this model will strengthen the children's playing over a four year period, not just two. Places can now be booked via <http://www.footballs-future.com/shop/abbey-primary-school-tuesday/>

Knitting Club - in need of help

Sadly we had to say goodbye to our resident expert knitter Mrs Hudson as she is relocating. She was delighted to receive vouchers for her new home as the children have loved learning to knit for the last two years. We have a small committed group of Year 3 and 4 children who knit on a Monday from 3.30-4.30pm and the children are looking for another mum, dad, grandparent or member of the community who could allow the children to continue with their new found hobby. If you have the time and the basic skill- or know someone who might- please speak to the School Office. The children would love the club to continue for the summer term.

Latin Club - in need of assistance

Mr Barnes has been running the Year 3 and 4 Latin Club for the last two terms and is looking for a mum, dad, grandparent or member of the community who can run the club for the summer term. Mr Barnes is able to come back and run the club in the autumn term. The club is run on Tuesday lunchtime from 12.30-1pm. Mr Lyndon-Jones, who has run the Latin club for the older children for several years has been seriously unwell since the beginning of January and has not been able to return to school. If you have the time and skill (ideally A Level Latin level!) - or know someone who might- please speak to the School Office. The children would love the club to continue for the summer term.

Proposed Italian club for the summer term for Year 1 and 2

Cinzia (mother of Alex Year 1) and her business partner Elena have spoken to me about the possibility of running an Italian club at lunchtime for Year 1 and 2 children in the summer term. The club would be £3 per 30 minute session run during lunchtime from 12.30-1pm either on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The 10 week club would cost £30 for the term. At least 20 children would need to be interested to make the Italian club viable for the two ladies. Both ladies would be DBS checked and a similar club runs successfully at Elena's daughter's school, Alban City. **If your child might be interested, please email Mrs Upton in the School Office by Friday 27th March** so that we know whether or not to include the club in the summer term clubs list that will come out in the last week of term.



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The ladies would aim to teach the children the basics of the Italian language in an immediately useful but fun way, using games, action songs, stories, soft toys and flashcards. The children would also learn a lot of interesting facts about Italy and enjoy an exciting adventure story of Pinocchio.

I wish you all a good weekend.

Kind regards,

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher