



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents

I cannot believe how quickly this first half of the autumn term has flown by. So much has happened, not to mention the wonderful Year 5 Victorian Day today and Year 6 visits to St Albans Library and author visit to Marlborough Secondary School. We have had a sad farewell to Father Richard and a bountiful Harvest with Mother Sally. We have had successful Key Stage 2 cross country and football fixtures and the football team have had three consecutive wins this half term and the squad should be very proud of themselves as we are.

There is much to look forward to next half term as we run up to Christmas. I hope that you and your family have a relaxing October half term. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 31st October 2017 when school resumes.

Sibling Application Reception for 2018-2019

The online application system for a Reception place from September 2018 will open on Monday 6th November. If you already have a child here at school and you would like to make an application for a Reception 2018-2019 place for a sibling, please submit a Supplementary Information Form, and hand this to the School Office as well as making an online application by 15th January 2018. A sibling application would fall under Category 3.

A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) can be downloaded from the school website where it can be found under the tab 'Admissions' or alternatively, one can be obtained from the School Office. With sibling applications, there is no requirement for a Cathedral Form to be signed by Mother Sally Jones. Allocation day will be 16th April 2018.

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. After half term, the children in Years 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 the half term 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**



Healthy Schools





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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 either myself or Mrs Yates, our RE Coordinator, to help shape our RE lessons and Collective Worship both at school and in the Abbey. Father Berkeley will also attend some meetings as will our RE and Collective Worship Governors.

The **Green Council** will meet with Miss Dunn 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 enjoy 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 Playground Buddies to help initiate playground games on Key Stages 1 and 2.

Day of Remembrance

The whole school will observe a minute silence at 11am on Friday 10th November in the School Hall.

Next half term, Year 6 children will be on the Key Stage 1 and 2 playgrounds at morning break where poppies will be available for a small donation and other items for 50p or a £1. Children are welcome to wear their poppies and one bracelet in remembrance on the 10th November. The Poppy Appeal has provided the School with a limited amount of items with a suggested donation price.



New School Lunch Menu

Tuesday 31st October will be the first day of a new school lunch menu here in school. All Key Stage 1 children have returned their menu choices and these have been entered in the registers by the School Office. As usual, Key Stage 2 children will decide on the day what their lunch choice will be. The new school menu will remain in place until week of 26th March 2018.

End of Key Stage 2 - Year 6 National Curriculum Assessments 2017

Last summer the Year 6 children undertook Year 6 end of Key Stage 2 assessments in maths, reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG). The tests assessed children against a national standard.

At the end of Key Stage 2, test results are reported using scaled scores, which range from 80-120, where 100 is defined as the "expected standard". The 2017 Hertfordshire schools and National data is now validated and I thought you might be interested in the final results which will be made available on our school website and in our school prospectus shortly.

The staff and governors are very proud of the Abbey School Year 6 achievements, which are below:



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	The Abbey School 2017 Results	Hertfordshire Schools Results 2017	National Schools Results 2017
Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined	80.0%	64.9%	61.1%
Percentage of pupils achieving a high level of attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths combined within the expected standard	26.7%	12.2%	8.6%
Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in the Reading Test	90.0%	75.7%	71.5%
Percentage of pupils achieving a high level of attainment in reading within the expected standard	60.0%	30.1%	24.5%
Reading average scaled score	110.4	105.3	104.1
Average progress in Reading	3.5		
Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard or better in the Writing Teacher Assessment	90.0%	79.0%	76.5%
Percentage of pupils achieving a high level of attainment in the Writing Teacher Assessment within the expected standard	37.0%	23.8%	17.9%
Average progress in Writing	0.8		
Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in the Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Test (SPAG)	93.3%	79.5%	76.9%
Percentage of pupils achieving a high level of attainment in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar within the expected standard	70.0%	34.4%	30.9%
SPAG average scaled score	112.0	106.6	106.0
Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in the Maths Test	86.7%	76.7%	74.8%
Percentage of pupils achieving a high level of attainment in Maths within the expected standard	56.7%	26.2%	22.6%
Maths average scaled score	109.5	104.8	104.2
Average progress in Maths	2.6		

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher