



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Grove Road
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Dear Parents

Mud not so glorious mud!

Our complex school site has 73 steps around the outside of the building alone and 65 trees on our grounds as we are situated in an old orchard. The school was built in 1970 into the side of the hill so that the school did not block the view of the Cathedral. At this time of year the mud from such a site is very hard to manage.

I have told every child in the school that they are no longer allowed on the grass or mud areas until after half term to reduce the amount of mud on the playgrounds and steps. Please could you help us enforce this before and after school as the current situation is proving hard for Site Manager, Mr Hollick, to keep on top of the mud, especially on the Key Stage 2 playground. Children have been asked to rigorously wipe their feet on entering the classroom to stop the mud travelling into school.

Parking

Parents will receive penalty parking fines if parked in the layby during the hours of 9am-5pm Monday-Friday or in resident parking bays in Grove Road. The parking vouchers our school issued from earlier conversations with parking control are not valid anymore. New parking vouchers will be issued with a covering letter explaining the new situation and future plan.

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.

Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017

From 25th January 2017, Sainsbury's will be launching the schools' Active Kids campaign again. When you shop at Sainsbury's you will receive token vouchers that Abbey School can make use of. In previous years, vouchers donated by parents, friends and family, have been exchanged for Sainsbury's sports, cooking and gardening equipment, all valuable to the learning of our pupils here at School.

There is a voucher collection box outside the School Office where you can place your donated vouchers. The more vouchers we get, the more equipment we can add to our wish-list. Thank you.

Health for Kids - new website

Health For Kids is a new website which provides a wealth of health information for children between the ages of 4 and 11. There are activities for parents/carers/teachers to enjoy with children, advice to support their development and much more.

To view the website visit www.healthforkids.co.uk A dedicated Hertfordshire page under the Health for Kids website was launched this month. It will provide local health updates, events and information, and contain the contact details of all School Nursing Teams across the county and signpost to relevant services.

Parents' Evening – Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th February 2017

Parents' Evening will be on Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th February. The School uses an easy-to-use online appointment booking system. Mrs Yeldham, our SENCO, is available on Tuesday 7th February and





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appointments can be made to see both your child's teacher and Mrs Yeldham if your child has Special Educational Needs.

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 7th February and by Mrs Berrington and Mr Silver on Thursday 9th 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 are going fast and 70% of our children have appointments booked. Please visit <https://abbeyprimaryschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> to book your appointments. Please do not swap appointments between parents. 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 9th 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 14th 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.

Friends' forthcoming fundraising events:

- Parents Quiz Night (80's theme) Friday 24th February 7.30pm for 8pm start
- Children's Sponsored Bounce event Friday 10th March
- Year 2/3 Home baked Cake Sale Friday 17th March
- St Albans Half Marathon Marshalling Sunday 11th June
- Summer Fair Saturday 1st July – 12-3pm

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>

Second hand uniform

Did you know that you can purchase second hand uniform throughout the school term? Simply collect a form from the School Office, complete it and post it in the Friends' Post Box in school, opposite the Office window. You will be contacted when your order is ready for collection. There will also be an opportunity to buy uniform at the Cake Sale on 17th March but why not order an extra fleece or jumper now to see your child through the winter? Alison Moore (parent of Peter Yr6 and Lydia Yr1)

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher