



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents

We have had another busy week here at school. The 56 Key Stage 2 children who performed this week in the St Albans Primary Schools' Music Association concert at the Alban Arena sang beautifully as part of a choir of 300 children and performed confidently and skilfully in the mass recorder group and mass orchestra. Well done also to Mrs Price, who as secretary of this association, worked very hard to coordinate this event to enable local schools to join together in harmony!

All classes have enjoyed Maths Week here at school and the teachers organised a range of maths activities, including some very practical maths and maths trails around the school site, both inside and out.

Our assembly today was joined by Sammy the Saint the mascot from St Albans City Football Club and a complementary child ticket for this Saturday's match has been sent home with each child and the accompanying adult enters for half price (£7.50). Kick-off is at 3pm against Staines Town.

Staffing News

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Tumber and her husband are expecting their second child in September 2015. Mr and Mrs Tumber are looking forward to a new baby brother or sister to join their eldest child Samuel. Mrs Tumber will commence her maternity leave on the last day of the summer term when her Year 6 class will be saying goodbye. Staffing arrangements for September will be finalised by May half term.

I am also pleased to announce that Mrs Kendall, who is currently on maternity leave, will re-join us in September. Mrs Kendall, now a mother of two young children, will teach on a Monday





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and Tuesday delivering one to one intervention for Pupil Premium children and deliver non-contact time for teachers.

Mr Davey has now finished his treatment and is building his strength. He is looking forward to returning to work at a later stage in the summer term.

School Swimming Squad Success

Well done to the Year 5 and 6 school swimming team who swam in the St Albans Primary Small Schools Swimming Gala last Saturday. All children swam their very best and enjoyed the event. The girl's team were delighted to win the cup for the Girls Team Overall. The girl's consisted of team: Jemima Samols, Riko Soehima, Allie Snailham, Xanthe Elliot, Hannah Barker, Beth Barker and Amelie Windsor-Williams.

Book Week

Book Week photographs are now pinned up on the board leading to the School Hall and are worth a look. A selection of these can be found on our school website. The Book Week Cake Sale raised £233. Well done Year 2 and 3 parents for providing such lovely home backed cakes.

Thank you to all the families who have contributed to the School Fund following my letter earlier this month. Your generosity is much appreciated to assist the school with funding enrichment activities such as Book Week.

Sponsored Bounce

The Sponsored Bounce was great fun, if you haven't returned your sponsorship money please do so next week with your slip. The highest scores are as follows:

On castle: Daniel Heycock 140 (Year 2) and Jemima Samols 130 (Year 5)

Bouncing a ball: Vasyl Rusyn 163 (Year 6) and Nicole Tyers 149 (Year 6)

Skiping: Christian Dickinson 100 (Year 3) and Hannah Read 152 (Year 4)

End of Term Arrangements

Just to remind you that this spring term ends at 2pm on Thursday 2nd April. The summer term begins on Tuesday 21st April at 8.55am. There will not be as service in the Lady Chapel on the last day of term as we will have an assembly for the children in the afternoon.





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Year 1 and 2 parent meetings next week

As advertised on the spring term dates, Year 2 parents are invited to a meeting at 2.45-3.20pm on Tuesday 31st March in Year 2 to discuss the Year 2 SATs with Miss Dunn and Miss Fenn. Year 1 parents are invited to a phonics meeting at 2.45-3.20pm on Wednesday 1st April with Miss Bennett and Miss Fenn in preparation of the phonics screening check.

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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Knitting Club - in need of help

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.

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. If you have the time and skill (ideally A Level Latin level!) - or know someone who might- please speak to the School Office.

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 Monday 30th March** so that we know whether or not to include the club in the summer term cubs list that will come out in the last week of term.

Proposed CameraKids Club

If there is the interest, from Key Stage 2 children, we could run a camera club in the school hall on a Wednesday from 3.30-4.30pm in the summer term. The club would cost £5 per week and for the 10 weeks would cost £50, which includes all equipment and materials. The club would be run by Andrew Hind a fully qualified and experienced visual arts teacher. Children will cover two creative projects and take home a total of four final creations that they have made using their photographs. **If your child might be interested, please email Mrs Upton in the School Office by Wednesday 1st April** so that we know whether or not to include the club in the summer term cubs list that will come out in the last week of term. A minimum of 10 children would be needed to make the club viable. See www.camerakidsphotography.co.uk for more information.





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Abbey Men's Group

After a lull, the Abbey Men's Group is restarting, led by John Gardner (Ben, Year 1) and local dad, Michael Rock. They are meeting this Friday, 27th March, at the Hare & Hounds, Sopwell Lane, from 8pm. All are welcome.

If you can't make it on Friday but would be interested in future events (next it's St George's Day drinks at Ye Olde Fighting Cocks on 23rd April), please contact John at wjohngardner@gmail.com or Michael at michaeldrock@gmail.com.

I wish you all a good weekend and a very happy Easter.

Kind regards,

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher

