



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

Headteacher: Miss E. Fenn

Grove Road

Telephone: 01727 851802

St Albans

Fax No: 01727 766991

Herts

Email: head@abbey.herts.sch.uk

AL1 1DQ

Website: www.abbey.herts.sch.uk

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Dear Parents,

A very short newsletter with some important information. Please also make note of the Autumn Term Diary Dates 2014 that are attached to this email. We suggest you print these off to assist you with the smooth running of this term. As always, paper copies of any correspondence are always displayed outside the School Office.

Abbey Friends' Parents Association Committee Meeting - 8pm Wednesday 17th September, Year 2 classroom

A new academic year always brings new and exciting challenges to our school community. For the Abbey School Friends' Association this means re-grouping, inviting existing/new parents to consider joining the team. Steve Samols, Friends' Chairman, had a very successful first year in post and the Committee will be looking for two Class Representatives for the Reception Class who help signpost parents to the various events held throughout the year.

The Abbey Friends' Association consists of a very enthusiastic bunch of parents, constantly striving to come up with new as well as maintain popular fundraising ideas. Yearly successful fundraising events has enabled the school to replace/update equipment around the school, purchase sets of computers and laptops for the school as well as our most recent playground markings.

Steve Samols and I look forward to seeing you on the 17th September over a glass of wine and remember that all parents are automatically members of the friends' Association!





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Free School Meals

If you currently receive one of the following benefits you may be eligible for Free School Meals:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Pension credit (guarantee credit)

Child Tax Credit with a taxable income of no more than £16,040 and not in receipt of working tax credit, you may also be eligible to receive Free School Meals and other educational benefits:

- Help with music fees
- Help with Year 6 cycle training fees
- Help with transport
- Help with Year 6 School Journey costs
- Weekly 1:1 tuition with a qualified teacher

Even if your child does not wish to have a school meal please still make an application and take full advantage of all the other benefits on offer. The system for applying for free school meals changed earlier in the year and it is now much easier to apply. All you need to do is fill in your application form online or phone the Customer Service Centre and the rest will be done for you.

Your application will be processed within 7 days. To apply log on to www.hertsdirect.org or phone the Customer Service Centre on 01438 737370 or 01923 471370.

The details of families who qualify for Free School Meals always remain confidential. Any school age children of families who qualify will receive weekly 1:1 tuition in school to support or extend their learning by a qualified teacher which has proven to have a very high impact. This support will continue for up to six years after the family no longer qualify if their circumstances change.

Key Stage 1 Universal Free School Meals

New this term, all Key Stage 1 children are entitled to Free School Meals regardless of their financial situation. If any Year 1 or 2 child is having home packed lunches and wishes to take up this entitlement of a free school lunch, please speak to Mrs Upton in the School Office. Participation of Universal Free School Meals does not provide the 1:1 teaching support which is available for those families that qualify for Free School Meals by applying to www.hertsdirect.org.

I wish you all a very nice weekend.

Kind regards

Miss Fenn

Headteacher



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