



# The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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## Christmas Fair - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 12-3pm

Our Christmas Fair promises to be a festive fun day for all the family tomorrow! Please do come along and look out for our Year 6 Young Apprentices and of course Santa Claus is coming to town! All of the money raised at the Christmas Fair will go towards the Friend's Association fund raising target to upgrade our school facilities for the children.

So far this term the Friends' Association have funded a Soundfill system in the Year 2 classroom to improve the open plan learning environment. Reception's new outside classroom pencil shaped fencing was funded by Friends', in addition to our brand new maths scheme across the school to meet the demands of the new curriculum for all our children.

The entrance to the Fair will be via the Reception class and the pedestrian gate on Grove Road and Lady Spencer Walk will be open along with the Reception wooden gate for access. Please note that other gates to the school will be locked.

Thank you for all your help and support in preparation to make this another successful school fundraising event.

## Christmas Market launch event - today Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November

St Albans's European-style Christmas Market opened yesterday, but today there will be an opening celebration for all the family, from 5pm - 8pm, at which the Mayor will officially open the market at 7pm by cutting a ceremonial ribbon .

The festivities will include magical frozen, icy guests, with local businesses serving up refreshments and the central shopping areas of Market Place and Christopher Place opening late and beginning to look a LOT like Christmas.





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Bjorn the polar bear is back by popular demand, and is sure to delight the children and grown-ups alike. He will be joined Mr Snowman, the Ice Queen riding her mythical Snow Creature, Ice Fairies in fabulous illuminated costumes and a close-up magician.

All this to the accompaniment of live festive music on the Market Place stage, just outside Jack Wills, starting at 5pm with our very own Asha Banks from Year 6 singing a selection of Christmas songs (including 'Let it Go' from Frozen!), followed by an Oompah band. There will also be live music at the Christmas Market site itself at the Vintry Garden from 7pm.

For little ones there will be icicle-making and festive balloon modelling as well, and the opportunity for all the family to get into the spirit of Christmas.

This year the Christmas Market promises to be even bigger and better than last year, with almost double the number of traders.

Asha has released a Christmas single with a national UK charity! It is available to buy on iTunes for 99p and the song is being released by UK charity called Kids in the Middle, which was set up to support children from families that have gone through separation and divorce. To buy the song, visit <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/christmas-at-my-mums-house/id943493390>

### **Key Stage 1 Nativity - 'Manger Mouse'**

Performances of 'Manger Mouse' will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm. Tickets (free) were available from the School Office from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November with an initial allocation of two tickets per Key Stage 1 child. An additional two tickets per Key Stage 1 child will be available from **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. With 90 children performing, we anticipate that each Key Stage 1 child will be able to have four tickets, if they wish, across the two performances allocated on a first come first served basis. From Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December any remaining tickets will be allocated and parents can give their requests for these extra tickets on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

There is a limit of 180 seats per performance and every person watching must have a ticket which will be collected by the headteacher on arrival. There will not be parking for buggies inside the school (hall or library) due to ensuring that fire exits are clear. No parents will be allowed to stand at the back without a ticket. As always, a polite request that if you choose to bring a toddler they must have a seat (restricted view likely) and a ticket and we ask that our youngest actors are able to have our full attention.

All Key Stage 1 children will perform in both performances and Key Stage 2 children will watch the performance at the dress rehearsal. Children in Years R-2 will need to be at school at 6pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December when the doors open for the 6.30pm performance. On the matinee performance the children will return to class at the end of the performance and be collected at 3.20pm as per normal. Both performances will hold a retiring collection, split between the school and the Children's Society.



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## **Key Stage 1 Nativity DVD**

Following parental request, the evening performance will be professionally recorded onto DVD so that the performance can be enjoyed for years to come and will be on sale as a non-profit making memento for family and friends. This also allows parents to enjoy the performance without worry about filming as large numbers of audience filming with iPads and cameras can affect the viewing enjoyment of other parents and distract our young actors. The DVD costs have been kept as low and simple as possible: One DVD for £10 or buy two and get one free (Three for £20). An order form will be sent to all Key Stage 1 families. A letter will follow.

## **Christmas Post Box**

Our school Christmas post box, made by Mr Davey for Christmas 2013, will be ready for use from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Children are invited to post their Christmas cards at convenient times when in school (not during lesson time!) and our Year 6 children will act as postmen and postwomen each lunchtime.

Please ensure Christmas cards identify:

- child's full name on the envelope
- child's year group on the envelope
- name of the child who wrote the card on the inside!

## **Advent Eucharist - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

Mrs Price is returning just in time for our Advent Eucharist in the Crossing next Thursday in the Abbey. The orchestra will not be playing in the service. We hope that many of you will be able to attend.

The seating will be organised as it was for Harvest. The children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will sit in the choir stalls. Parents are invited to sit by the High Altar. Reception and Year 1 will sit in the crossing by the pulpit. Year 3 will sit opposite the pulpit and Year 2 will be spilt on both sides of the crossing. Parents with prams may find it difficult to sit by the altar and may prefer to sit closer to the Rose Window, behind the children, where steps will not cause an issue. We thank you in your advance for being sensitive of the school children's needs whilst they are singing, performing and praying. We understand that seating is tight, but we thank you in advance for your patience with allowing the school children to be seated before any spare seats behind the children are filled by parents with prams.

## **Christingle Service - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

All are welcome to this enjoyable candlelit service at 3pm at the Cathedral. This traditional service is loved by children and adults alike, as we look forward to the coming of Christ, Light of the world. A collection will be taken for the Children's Society.



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### **Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

In support of Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, staff will be wearing a Christmas jumper and give a small donation in support of this wonderful charity. All children are welcome to join us in this fundraising opportunity if they would like to.

### **School Carol Service - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Our whole school Carol Service will be held in the Nave of the Cathedral on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30-2.30pm. This is a non-ticket event and parents and friends and family are warmly welcome. The children will return to school as normal and be collected at 3.20pm.

### **Supporting RNLI**

Remember to save your used stamps this Christmas period for the Royal National Lifeboats Institute. We have supported the RNLI for a number of years and there is a used stamp collection box in the entrance of school.

### **Midday Supervisory Assistant Job Opportunity**

Abbey Primary School is looking for an additional midday supervisor to help with the supervision of children during the lunch break. The hours are 11.55 am to 1.10 pm at an hourly rate of £6.50. We would be delighted to hear from applicants who would be interested in working any day of the week. You would be joining a supportive team and working with well-behaved and friendly children. Please contact the School Office on 01727 851802 for further details.

### **School Comms - New school communication and finance system**

You will all have received a letter about the start of us using SchoolComms for implementation at the beginning of the Spring term. Can I please ask for all School Comms reply slips before Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

I look forward to seeing at the Christmas Fair.

Kind regards

Miss Emma Fenn

Headteacher