



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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Dear Parents

Abbey School Celebrates

On Friday we were delighted to receive a letter from Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP Minister of State School Standards congratulating us on the 'outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check' from June 2018 that our current Year 2 children participated in when they were in Year 1. Please find the letter attached. This was a lovely way to start the weekend.

Sunday's Times listed the top 250 state primary schools in England and we were delighted to see Abbey Primary School appear as one of only two St Albans primary schools. What a way to end the weekend! Please find attached.

Key Stage 1 Nativity

All Key Stage 1 children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children) will perform in both Nativity performances of 'Born in a Barn' on Tuesday 4th December at 6pm and during school hours on Wednesday 5th December. Key Stage 2 children will watch the performance at the dress rehearsal on Monday 3rd December.

Children in Years Reception, 1 and 2 will need to be at school at 5.30pm for the evening performance on Tuesday 4th December when the doors open for the audience for the 6pm performance. After the matinee performance on Wednesday 5th December, the children will return to class and be collected at 3.20pm as per normal. Both performances will hold a retiring collection that will be shared between Great Ormond Street Hospital and Abbey School resources.

Tickets for Key Stage 1 families to see 'Born in a Barn' will be sent home via children on Tuesday 20th November. With 90 children performing, each Key Stage 1 family will be issued with two tickets for the evening performance on the Tuesday and two tickets for the matinee performance on the Wednesday. Families with separated parents, who have made the school aware, will receive half the allocation each. The parent who resides with the child will receive their allocation via pupil post. The other parent will receive their tickets by post. All parents are free to exchange their allocated tickets amongst themselves and return any unwanted tickets to the School Office ASAP.

The School Office has no spare tickets, but the returned tickets will be given out on a first come first served basis to names on the request list which we will compile from Wednesday 21st November. The School Hall has capacity for 160 adults when the stage is in place with 90 children performing. Every person watching must have a ticket which will be collected by the Headteacher on arrival.

There will be no 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 (2 years and above) they must have a seat (restricted view) and a ticket and we ask that our youngest actors are able to have our full attention and that children are removed if distressed and distracting to our children performing.

Please be mindful if you are planning to bring pre-school children that they are quiet and close to you during the performance so that every voice is heard on the stage. If your child is distressed at any time, we ask that you comfort your child or remove them discreetly until they are settled when you are welcome to return. The production is designed for parent's pleasure as school age children will have already watched the dress rehearsal. Thank you for your cooperation with this.





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Key stage 1 Nativity DVD

A professional DVD recording will be made of the Key Stage 1 nativity 'Born in a Barn'. DVD's have always been a big hit and have proved to be a lovely memento. This year's production will be filmed by Black Cat Video again, which has an excellent reputation for producing quality DVD recordings for schools and filmed our latest productions.

The DVDs will be priced at £15 each. If you would like to place an order, please login to your Schoolcomms Gateway account to make your payment. Please ensure that payment has been made in order to guarantee for all DVD orders to be sent home with the children before the end of the Autumn Term **by Friday 7th December at the very latest**. Thank you

This is a non-profit making service. We have had the KS1 and KS2 productions professionally filmed for several years now to stop parents filming on their iPads/phone and not being able to enjoy watching it or the filming by parents interfering with other parents viewing pleasure. We ask parents not to film the production themselves as you will only have a restricted view and you will not be permitted to stand at the back or side of the hall. There will be an opportunity for parents to take photographs of their own child at the end of the performance, but we do ask parents not to take photographs with flash throughout the performance as it dazzles the children and puts our youngest actors off.

School Christmas Tree

Our school Christmas tree is being donated by Aylett Nurseries again this year and our children will decorate the tree in the week leading up to the Christmas Fair, week beginning Monday 26th November. Any new children (such as the Reception class or new starters this academic year) who joined the school since last December are invited to bring in one decoration from home to hang on the tree that week. This decoration remains in school and is not returned home. This Abbey School tradition is fun for the children, but if your child is unable to find a decoration, or forgets, we will make sure he or she can choose a decoration from our box.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 30th November

In preparation for the Fair, children can wear non-uniform to school on Friday 30th November in return for a donation of a bottle of wine or similar for the bottle tombola or a smart box of sweets/chocolates for tombola prizes.

Christmas Fundraising at the Christmas Fair Saturday 1st December 12-3pm

Our Christmas Fair promises to be a festive fun day for all the family! Please do come along and look out for our Year 6 Young Apprentices and of course Santa Claus is coming to town! To tempt your taste buds there will be a variety of tasty treats to buy. 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.

Christmas Post Box

Our school Christmas post box will be ready for use from Monday 3rd 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. Children can post their cards at break time and lunch time. The children should not come into school via the front door of school to do this at the start of the day as this is a very busy time in school.

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

The Advent Eucharist will be on **Thursday 6th December** from 9.15-10.15am in the Crossing. The children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will sit in the choir stalls. Parents are invited to sit by the High Altar.



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St Albans Abbey Christingle Service - Sunday 9th 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.

Year 1-6 parent 'Book Look' opportunity- Monday 10th December 3.40-4.30pm

You may have noticed from the diary dates above that Year 1-6 parents are invited, with their child, to see their child's English and Maths books in their classroom between 3.40-4.30pm. Year 1-6 parents must enter/exit via their classroom door. Teachers will not be present. Another opportunity will be offered at the end of the spring term to compliment the October and February Parent Consultations. Reception Building Books will be sent home for parents to look at and enjoy with their child at the end of every half term.

Carol Service – Wednesday 12th December

Our very special whole school Carol Service will be held in the Nave of the Cathedral on Wednesday 12th December from 1.30-2.30pm. This is an event not to be missed. Mrs Baker and the children have been working very hard in preparation for this event and will showcase their collective talents. 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.

In both the Advent Eucharist and Carol service, we politely request that parents allow the school children to remain in their class line and order as they process in and out of the Cathedral, especially Reception, to ensure that the staff can supervise the children easily. We do ask parents not to take photographs during the Cathedral services.

Supporting RNLI

Mr Silver (teacher) has asked me to remind you to save your used stamps for the Royal National Lifeboats Institute this Christmas period. We have supported the RNLI for a number of years and there is a used stamp collection box in the entrance of school, below the School Office window. There is a lifeboat collection box at the front of school and stickers available for any stamp or money donation.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma', written in a cursive style.

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher