



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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20 December 2018

Dear Parents

We have had another packed week here at Abbey School! The Carol Service in the Cathedral last Thursday was wonderfully attended and I have been inundated with praise and admiration for the children's singing and exemplary behaviour from parents, governors and invited guests. Mrs Baker did an amazing job leading her first carol service at Abbey School after just one term in post.

The Christmas lunch yesterday was a joyful occasion, followed by the renowned Talent Show! Singing, jokes and dance routines featured and the event was compered by our Year 6 children.

The children really have had a super Christmas period here at school and enjoyed the Christmas theatre production of 'Peter Pan' on Monday. We enjoyed wearing our Christmas jumpers last Friday to support Save the Children (raising £123.67) and then of course we have had our Christmas parties that afternoon. The theatre production and Christmas parties are funded by the generous parent contributions made to Abbey School.

This final newsletter of the autumn term comes with the Spring Term Clubs List attached so that you can see what dates the clubs begin and end. The Spring Term Diary Dates will be circulated in January.

End and Start of Term

The autumn term ends tomorrow, Friday 21st December, at 2pm. The gates will be opened at 2pm when the whole school assembly finishes. Children are to be collected from their external classroom door as normal. There will be no after school childcare or clubs. **The spring term 2019 begins on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 8.55am.**

House Points

This half term the winning Houses are **Luke** and **Mark** and all the children in these Houses have earned a non-uniform day on the last day of term, Friday 21st December 2018.

The children in Key Stage 2 are divided into Houses: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Key Stage 2 House Points are celebrated each Friday in assembly with Miss Felstead. The children have worked all half term towards having the highest number of House Points each week. The children have agreed the following guidelines with me on this awarded non-uniform day:

- Long hair down? Yes
- Hair gel? Yes
- Fancy dress? –Yes
- Jewellery? –No
- Own shoes? –Outside only
- Nail varnish? –No
- Make up and tatoos?- No
- Hair coloured? –No





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Parent E Safety Session – Monday 28th January 6pm

As we think about the New Year ahead, the governors and I felt this was a pertinent time to make contact with you surrounding the matter of E Safety and responsible use of technologies both at school and at home.

We are committed to ensuring that students are safe when using the internet at Abbey School. Within the curriculum at school students are educated about appropriate use of technologies, the dangers of misuse and how to report concerns. We make use of time in Computing lessons and assemblies to ensure that the most up to date and relevant content is delivered to our students. Nonetheless, much of a child's internet usage occurs outside of school, and we ask parents/carers to be interested, supportive and vigilant to their children's usage.

I am pleased to announce that on Monday 28th January 2019 we have secured an Online Safety Specialist from a company called 'Connected Minds' to deliver workshops for children in Years 5 and 6. Teaching staff will have a session after school and there will be an information session for parents/carers. This event will commence at 6pm in the school hall and end at 7.30pm.

We are offering it as a free session to encourage as many parents as possible to attend. We would welcome parents from any year group to attend. This is a parent only session, and will not be run annually. Please email the School Office if you wish to attend.

Workshops with Years 5 and 6 content:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To give the children guidance about general Internet safety.• To explore some of the games they currently play and the potential dangers / cyber bullying that could occur within them and how to deal with this.• How important it would be to protect passwords and to ensure that they are not shared with others.• The different chat rooms that will be available to them and age restrictions and problems that could occur.• Ensuring they understand that once a photograph is online it can be copied even if it is the app where it disappears quickly someone can copy it and share.• Maybe some general scenarios. What would you do if.....
Parents session:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to protect your children online.• How to ensure that the safety settings are tight at home.• The different apps that children are using and the potential risks.• The need for privacy settings on mobile devices.• Guidelines for age certified games and how to check reviews of games written by parents.• Making sure your child feels they can tell you if there is a problem and it would not be that the device is taken away.

Abbey School Site

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 with rain and mud, such a site is very hard to manage. Thank you for keeping to the paths to avoid walking through the muddy patches.

Supporting RNLI-Used Stamps

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.



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Hertfordshire County Council's School Closure Notification system

In the event of severe weather, a public emergency or unforeseen circumstances, it may be necessary for a school to close or partially close.

In order to ensure parents and guardians are informed as quickly as possible of anything that may have an impact on a normal school day, this notification system is in place to enable messages from schools to be sent immediately via text message and email.

Parents must sign up to this system in order to access the immediate updates. Please right click on the following link and then click on 'sign up' in the top right corner:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>

Please take 5 minutes to register your details for any Hertfordshire school your child attends so that you can receive immediate information and updates. Abbey School website has a dedicated page to assist in these conditions: www.abbey.herts.sch.uk/parent-information/key-information/extreme-weather-conditions/

Travel Sized Toiletries-Centre 33

Travel sized toiletries, especially those from hotel stays, are always in demand at Centre 33. If you have any unwanted toiletries before or after Christmas please send these into the School Office marked for Centre 33.

Sibling Application Reception 2019-2020

The online application system for a Reception place from September 2019 is open. If you already have a child here at school and you would like to make an application for a Reception 2019-2020 place for a sibling, please submit a Supplementary Information Form, and hand this to the School Office as well as making an online application by 15th January 2019. A sibling application would fall under Category 3.

A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) can be downloaded from the school website where it can be found under the tab 'Admissions' or alternatively, one can be obtained from the School Office. With sibling applications, there is no requirement for a Cathedral Form to be signed by Mother Abi Thompson. Allocation day will be 16th April 2019.

Abbey School Governing Board - Date for your diary

The annual Parent Governor Forum will be on Thursday 14th March from 7.30-9pm, which will now, going forward, combine with the Friends' Association AGM.

Abbey School Rule Reminders for Holiday Haircuts:

- Hair gel is not permitted.
- Hair colouring or stencil designs are not permitted.

The staff and I wish to convey our thanks for Christmas cards, presents and good wishes as this term comes to a close. Thank you for your continued support.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kind regards

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

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher