



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

Headteacher: Miss E. Fenn
Telephone: 01727 851802
Website: www.abbey.herts.sch.uk
Email: admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk

Grove Road
St Albans
Herts
AL1 1DQ

8th February 2019

Dear Parents

Parental Views

Parent views are important to Abbey School staff and the Governing Board. Your views will help the Abbey School evaluate our provision and as always look at ways we can improve our practice. The Governing Board annually seeks parental views and below is a link to a survey we hope you will take the time to complete **by 12pm Friday 15th February 2019**.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2PTVCJC>

All survey results will be available to parents at our **annual Parent/Governor Forum on Thursday 14th March from 7.30-9pm** which we hope many of you will be able to attend.

Parent E Safety Session and Supporting Your Child with Anxiety Session

The parent sessions last week were well received with 16 parents attending the E Safety session and 14 parents attending the anxiety session.

Please find attached two useful documents, the Connected Minds handout from the E Safety session which has a link to the full presentation delivered. This flyer has already been uploaded to the E Safety page of the school website where you will also find the spring term E Safety newsletter for parents and subsequent terms.

Parents' Consultation - Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th February 2019

Parent Consultations are held twice a year at Abbey School, October and February, the week before half term. Each class teacher(s) holds thirty consultations for the number of children in her class over the two evenings, allowing for thirty 10 minute appointments per class. Over the two evenings 210 appointments are delivered, each timed precisely to run at the same time.

These 10 minute consultations are for parents only. There will be no supervision for school age or pre-school children on site. Appointments will run strictly on time to allow parents to organise childcare arrangements off-site, potentially with other parents. We politely ask that children do not come into the hall as seven appointments will run simultaneously and children may affect the quality of the discussions taking place.

Job shares

At least one class teacher will be present at every consultation appointment and some appointments may have both teachers available. All the job share teachers will read from jointly written notes, prepared in advance.

Consultation notes for parents

A consultation sheet will be available to parents on arrival. All teachers will read from this consultation sheet, highlighting strengths and areas for development in English and Maths based on our end of autumn teacher assessments and behaviour and social information.



Healthy Schools





The Abbey CE VA Primary School

How will the evening run?

We ask that all parents enter and exit via the main entrance of school where the Grove Road pedestrian gate will be open. The consultation meetings will take place for all classes in the hall with the children's books (Years 1-6) available to browse in the Key Stage 1 classrooms:

If you are unable to attend the set evenings?

A 10 minute consultation to meet with the class teacher can be arranged via the School Office after February half term either in person straight after school one day or via the telephone. Please note, this appointment would still be 10 minutes.

This also applies to families with separated parents or extended families that are unable to attend together. A separated parent is welcome to request a 10 minute consultation to meet with the class teacher, arranged via the School Office, after the half term either in person after school or via the telephone in addition to a parent attending in person on the set evening.

As there are consultations in both October and February, for parents that feel unable to attend together, Abbey School can only recommend that each parent attends one consultation on the set night in October or February and the other parent meets or speaks to the teacher after the half term. Abbey School suggests that the parents then rotate for the following terms consultations.

It is for the parents to decide if they can or cannot attend their child's consultation appointment jointly in October and February and we ask parents to make contact with the School Office for additional consultations, which we are happy to provide, but due to time limits on the evenings and the position of half term, the additional appointments will be organised from the first week of the following half term.

How to prepare for the consultation?

Reception parents/new parents to Abbey School – Think about any questions or concerns you may have and wish to be answered. Your teacher will prompt you for these at the start of the meeting. Reception children's Building Books will have been sent home before the consultation for you to look at together at home and celebrate the achievements of your child. This may prompt some questions.

Years 1-6 parents – Think about any questions or concerns you may have and wish to be answered. Your teacher will prompt you for these at the start of the meeting.

Also, look back at your child's annual report from July 2018 and look at the next steps for Reading, Writing and Maths that your teacher wrote in bold in the 'next steps' box. From looking at the children's books on display consider if these have been met or still relevant and you can discuss this further with the class teacher if you wish as your child may need to continue to strive to meet these targets.

The previous October 2018 parent consultation sheet may also prove useful to look at in advance to see what the teacher wrote last term and consider if the same areas for development are relevant.

How will the evening run?

The evenings will take in the same format as previous years. Teachers' time keeping will be precise to assist parents with out of school child care arrangements. We ask that all parents enter and exit via the main entrance of school where the Grove Road pedestrian gate will be open.

The consultation meetings will take place for all classes in the hall with the children's books (Years 1-6) available to browse in the Key Stage 1 classrooms:



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

Reception classroom:	Year 1 and Year 2 books
Year 1 classroom:	Year 3 and Year 4 books
Year 2 classroom:	Year 5 and Year 6 books

- We politely ask that all the children's books/trays are left in the classroom.
- Please ensure that you are waiting in the Library in advance of your appointment time.
- From the library, the Headteacher will collect you to allow all appointments to start not only promptly, but collectively in the hall to eliminate disruption.
- To keep to time, a bell will be rung to indicate the last minute of appointment time. (If at this point you feel further time is needed, please contact the School Office who will be happy to assist you in making an additional appointment straight after school in the following half term.) The next set of parents will then be escorted into the hall ready to start their meeting on time.
- Children attending **Lindees** after school club will be in the ICT Suite and must be collected by the external door by Year 6 and the pond.
- **Football club on Tuesday** for Key Stage 2 will get changed in Year 6 and should be collected by the external door by Year 6 and the pond at 4.30pm.
- **XLR8 club on Thursday** will get changed and use Year 5 and should be collected by the external door by Year 6 and the pond at 4.30pm.

End and Start of Term

Half term ends next Friday, 15th February, at 3.20pm. The following half term resumes on Monday 25th February at 8.55am.

Coolmilk

As you may be aware, a company called 'Coolmilk' delivers milk cartons to our school free of charge to children under the age of 5 as part of an EEC directive. It is possible to register your child to receive milk at break-time and pay for this via Coolmilk's website. The cost is a subsidised price of around £14 per term.

Please see the leaflet attached. Generally, children who are registered and have paid on Coolmilk's website by 4pm on a Tuesday, can start receiving milk from the following Monday.

Messages from Sub Dean Mother Abi from St Albans Cathedral:

Tea and Toast

Tea and Toast has resumed on a Monday after school (3.30-4.30pm) and is run in the Chapter Room in the Deanery Offices. Tea and Toast is aimed at children aged 4-8 years old and younger siblings are welcome if that makes it more accessible for the older sibling to attend.

Youth Confirmations 2019

If your child is in Year 6 or above at school and would like to explore confirmation this Easter, please contact Fr Berkeley for further details (precentor@stalbanscathedral.org) or collect an information form directly from his Cathedral pigeonhole. The course will begin on Tuesday 12th February at 5.45pm and will avoid half-term.

St Albans Cathedral Chorister Auditions

St Albans Cathedral are looking for boys with an enthusiasm for singing, a clear sounding singing voice and potential to develop that voice. Boys applying to join the choir are not expected to be the finished article.



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

Membership of the choir does require quite a commitment, especially at weekends and at Christmas and Easter. The reward for the child is the enjoyment and self-esteem that singing to an acknowledged high level brings, being part of a small team of like-minded children and a free musical education to a professional standard.

The choristers form strong friendships, bond as a team and also have fun social events including singing on an international tour once every two years as well as on national TV and radio from time to time. More information can be found at <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/music/cathedralchoir/>.

Any interested parents wishing to obtain more information should email the Cathedral music department secretary, Lizzie Smyth, at lizzie.smyth@stalbanscathedral.org or ring 01727 890245 (Mon-Fri, 9-5).

Lizzie Smyth will then send information and guide parents through the application process, which is by vocal audition.

St Albans Cathedral also have a companion girls' choir for girls of a similar age range. Information for joining that choir can also be found on the website.

Cubs Pack request for help

The 17th St Albans (Abbey) Cub pack is looking for a couple of regular helpers for the Monday evening sessions 6.15-7.30pm. Cubs is for children ages 8-10½ and helpers would automatically get a place for their child at Cubs. For further details please contact: Saroja Sehjal 07715 661154 saroja.scouts@btinternet.com or Kirsty Mauldrige myscout@onlinescoutmanager.co.uk.

Kind regards

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

Miss Emma Fenn
Headteacher