



St. Alban's C of E Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

NO 8

5 January 2007

Dear Parents

Welcome back and Happy New Year! What a lovely end of term it was; special thanks to Fr Paul for the Eucharist and to all the parents who helped with the Christmas Fair. All money raised will be spent directly on the children.

LABELLING BELONGINGS

Parents become very upset when children lose things and we spend a considerable amount of time looking for lost belongings. Clear labelling will help reduce this problem. Jumpers need to be checked or re-labelled after washing as biro often fades. It is also vital that all coats are clearly named, particularly the reversible school coats. The child's name can be written on the reflective triangle or a key ring attached to the zip so that they can be easily identified.



CHILD AND FAMILY THERAPY

Caroline Howard, a member of the Child and Family Therapy Team, will be visiting again on Thursday 25 January at 9.00am. If you would like to see her, please make an appointment with the school office.

GRAND PIANO

Our new grand piano has been ordered and should be in school later this month. Many thanks to the H.S.A. for raising such a large amount of the money needed.



TERM TIME HOLIDAYS



May and September are particularly important times in the school year. In September children move up a class and establish new routines and May because external and internal tests are carried out. The results of these tests are analysed by the teachers to provide an accurate picture of each child's strengths and weaknesses and their future targets can then be set. We also have to submit details of the school's absence figures to the Local Education Authority and every child's absence has to be justified. Therefore permission for absence in September and May will only be granted for truly exceptional circumstances. Please consider this when planning holidays in the future.

OFFICE MOVE



As previously mentioned, our school office is being extended and work has now started. From Monday 8 January, the playground gates will be used as the main entrance and part of the playground fenced off for the safety of the children. It is hoped that the building work will be completed by the middle of the Spring Term.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please remember to inform the school office if you have changed your home or mobile telephone numbers as well as any changes in emergency contact details.



CLUBS

Key Stage 2 Clubs will be starting later this term and you will receive more information on this during the next few weeks. In the past, many clubs for small groups of children have been run by parents. These have included sewing, crafts, badminton, art etc. The children thoroughly enjoyed these activities, so please let the school office know by Friday 12 January if you would like to run a club for one hour a week.

ACTIVEMARK AWARD



The school has been awarded the Activemark Award for recognition of its provision for good physical activities both during and after school.

SHARPS COPSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CENTRE

We have received some information regarding the facilities on offer at the Children's Centre at Sharps Copse. Services include parent and carer toddler groups, toy library, baby club as well as family learning courses which offer a free crèche. If you would like a copy of this information, please ask the school office.

YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 FOOTBALL



Portsmouth Football Club is running a five- week course at school for Year 3 and 4 starting on Monday 15 January from 3.30-4.30pm. The course costs £15 and is open to both boys and girls. If you would like your child to join this, please collect a form from the school office and return with payment by Friday 12 January.

SCHOOL DINNERS



Just a new year's reminder that school dinner money should be sent to school every Monday morning, even if your child is not having a dinner every day. Please make sure you send in the exact money in an envelope or named purse. Cheques should be made payable to HCC, with your child's name and class on the reverse. Cheques do not need to be in an envelope.

Please refer to the table below when working out how much to send in each week.

Days	1 child	2 children
1 day	£1.70	£3.40
2 days	£3.40	£6.80
3 days	£5.10	£10.20
4 days	£6.80	£13.60
5 days	£8.50	£17.00

MUSIC

A reminder that music fees for this term are due by Friday 12 January.

DATES FOR NEXT TERM



A list of dates for this term, including class assemblies and trips will be sent home early next week. Please note dates for KS1 and KS2 SATS and QCA Tests for Years 3, 4 and 5. These are very important tests and time out of school should be avoided.

With best wishes