

St. Alban's C of E Primary School

HEADTEACHERS NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

NO 1

5 September 2008

Dear Parents

Welcome back - I hope you all had a good summer break! I was very pleased to see the children again even though they had to arrive in the rain!



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

50 We have a very exciting start to the new term as on Monday 8 September the children will be celebrating St Alban's School 50th birthday. The celebrations for the children will start at 9.30am with a Eucharist presided at by Bishop Kenneth. There will also be previous staff, clergy and some of the "St Alban's Class of '58" at the service but unfortunately on this occasion, there will not be enough room to invite current parents. Please support this special occasion by ensuring that children are smartly dressed in their correct school uniform (with jumpers) and arrive at school on time.

A cake has been made in the shape of the school, which the Bishop will cut with a sword and all the children will come home with a piece at 3.30pm.



In the afternoon, a whole school photograph will be taken and copies will be on sale later in the term. If possible, please could the girls wear summer dresses so that they are all the same for this anniversary photograph.

FOOD AT ST ALBAN'S

I would like to confirm our school policy for items of food that are eaten in our school:

Snacks During morning break only, children can purchase a healthy snack such as fruit, yoghurt or fruit juice from the school kitchen. Most items cost approximately 30p and money should be brought into school in a named purse. Alternatively, children may bring a healthy snack from home, ie fresh fruit, a carton of fresh fruit juice, a box of raisins, a carrot or a smoothie/milk/yoghurt drink. Breakfast and cereal bars are also not permitted at breaktime.



Please note that there will not be any snacks on sale on Monday 8 September due to the anniversary celebrations.

Nuts We currently have a couple of children at St Alban's who have severe nut allergies. In one case, the allergy is so severe that just holding hands with another child who has eaten nuts could trigger a serious attack. I am therefore requesting that parents avoid putting nuts and 'nutty' foods (ie peanut butter, Snickers etc) into packed lunches and morning snacks. If, however, you feel it necessary for your child to bring food with a high content of nuts into school, I would be grateful if you could send a short note to the class teacher or school office on each occasion.

Fruit and Vegetable Scheme for Key Stage One

We are pleased to confirm that the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme will continue this year. Under this scheme, each child aged four to six will be entitled to receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each school day. The fruit and vegetables will be fresh and of good quality and the aim is for the children to have a positive and enjoyable experience of fruit and vegetables.



BULLYING

At St Alban's School we are very proactive when it comes to bullying and on Wednesday 10 September there will be a whole school assembly to discuss this issue with the children.

During this assembly the children will be informed of what bullying entails and what bullying is not. It is not falling out with your friends but a longer term problem which may include prolonged verbal or physical abuse. It is not, for example, being called a "name" as a one off. We will also stress that bullying is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in school. Teachers are vigilant for name calling and swearing and these are also not acceptable.

Please can parents support our code of conduct and also realise that friendship issues can become very intense, especially with girls, and children fall in and out of friendships much more regularly than adults. The school is experienced in getting children through this important aspect of learning how to relate to others and helping them to form happy relationships; last year, problems were exasperated by parents continuing their children's arguments at the gate.

INTERNET / TEXT

Last year, there were problems with children sending abusive messages to each other via text or MSN. Please can parents be aware that it is much easier to write something in a faceless text message or on the internet than it is to say something to someone directly and the hurt and fear this can cause is a problem throughout society. Your child will be bringing home a leaflet and CD which I hope will help you understand "safe use" of the internet.



INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS



We are very pleased that during the summer holidays three new interactive whiteboards were fitted in KS1. This is very exciting for the children and will help them with the curriculum.

ART SHIRTS

Now that the school has achieved the Artsmark Gold award, the teachers are keen to start their art projects with the classes. All children should have an art shirt in school in order to undertake any art activity. An old shirt is ideal. Please label the shirt clearly. Art shirts will be kept at school. (Please do not let brothers and sisters share a "family" art shirt - as sometimes classes do Art on the same day!).

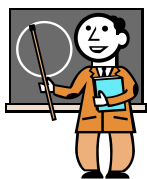


INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS



Just a reminder that music lessons start next Tuesday, 9 September; there will be no lessons on Monday 8th. After-school band rehearsals start on Thursday 11 September at 3.30-4.30pm for all existing members and for all children who were learning a brass or woodwind instrument last year.

TEACHER AND PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS



These sessions provide an opportunity for parents to come and meet their child's new teacher and discuss classroom routines, homework and areas of study. It is also a chance for you to ask questions. An information sheet will be sent home for parents who cannot attend. Sessions will be in the classrooms and start at 3.00pm. Please enter the school via the office.

Thursday 11 September	Year 3
Friday 12 September	Year 4
Tuesday 16 September	Year 5 **
Wednesday 17 September	Year 1
Thursday 18 September	Year 2

(**followed by a meeting for parents and children at 3.30pm regarding the Stubbington trip).

An information evening for Year 6 parents will be held on Thursday 18 September at 6.00pm. This will last approximately 45 minutes and include information about secondary school applications. Children are not required to attend, but are welcome to come if they would like to.

APPOINTMENTS WITH TEACHERS

If you would like to see a teacher or TASK before or after school, please come to the school office in the first instance. Please do not enter the school by any other door in the interests of child protection as we need to know who has entered the school. Thank you.

MUSIC TUITION FEES

A reminder that all music tuition fees are due by Friday 12 September. Thank you.



CLUBS



Key Stage 2 Clubs will run from Monday 6 October until Friday 14 November (6 weeks) and you will receive more information soon. If any parents or grandparents would like to run or help run a club after school for a small group of 6-10 children, please let the school office know by Wednesday 10 September. We would particularly like to hear from anyone who would like to run a Yu-Gi-O club, chess club or board games club.

SCHOOL UNIFORM



Knight and Lee will be coming to school on Wednesday 17 September from 3.00pm for parents to order any winter uniform, including blue blazers. Badges with the school crest are available from the school office for blazer pockets.

Coats are also available to order from the school and cost £11.95. A sample is available in the office for you to view.

Girls with long hair should also make sure that their hair is tied back; not only does this look smart but it can help to prevent any headlice problems. The school office stocks red and blue gingham scrunchies at 65p each.

Some secondhand uniform is available at school, including girls' winter tunics and coats.

DIARY DATES

A list of all class assemblies and other important dates throughout the year will be sent home later this week.

With best wishes