



St. Alban's C of E Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

NO 1

8 September 2010

Dear Parents

Welcome back - I hope you all had



a good summer break! Staff have already been working hard to get the school looking "spick and span" for the children. The year 3 and 4 classrooms and the staffroom have been completely refurbished with new flooring, improved lighting, cupboard space, pin boards and blinds.

The teachers and teaching assistants have undergone first aid training and the whole staff, including our Site Manager, Lunchtime Supervisors, Cooks, Cleaners, Office Staff and some Governors have been trained in Child Protection and behaviour management, so we are all 'ready to go'.

FOOD AT ST ALBAN'S

At St Alban's School, we promote a healthy lifestyle; good habits which are formed when young, will last a lifetime! I would therefore like to confirm our school policy for items of food that are eaten in school:

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.



Snacks During morning break only, KS2 children can purchase a healthy snack such as fruit, yoghurt or fruit juice from the school kitchen. Most items cost approximately 35p and money should be brought into school in a named purse. Alternatively, children may bring a healthy snack from home, ie fresh fruit (NOT fruit winders, please), 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.

Nuts We currently have a couple of children at St Alban's who have severe nut allergies. I am therefore requesting that parents avoid putting nuts and 'nutty' foods (ie peanut butter, Snickers etc) into packed lunches and morning snacks.



Lunch Boxes

Please remember that school lunch boxes should not contain sweets.

Water Bottles

Even during the winter months, it is important that children have a regular intake of water; this keeps them refreshed and active both inside and outside the classroom. The children will be bringing home a free water bottle this week so please name this clearly and make sure that it is taken home and brought to school every day.

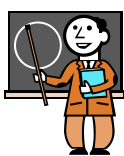


SUNFLOWER NEWS



Some of you may have seen in The News during August that St Alban's won a sunflower growing competition, organised by Basepoint with the charity they support, The Elizabeth Foundation. The prize of £250 will be presented to the school later this month. Well done to Miss Newman and her team of young gardeners!

TEACHER AND PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS



Another reminder about these important dates in September. Sessions will be in the classrooms and start at 3.00pm. Please enter the school via the office.

Tuesday 14 September	Year 3
Wednesday 15 September	Year 5 **
Thursday 16 September	Year 4
Friday 17 September	Year 1
Monday 20 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 Wednesday 22 September at 5.00pm. This will last approximately 45 minutes and include information about secondary school applications.

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.

GOLD AWARDS



Any member of the school community can nominate a child for this award eg, a member of the school staff, a dinner lady, a parent or a governor.

Gold awards could be given for children being particularly helpful, thinking of others, persevering, being honest etc. By involving the whole school community, the children can see how we all value ways of behaving and attitude to others.

Nominated children will receive a special sticker in the merit assembly on Monday morning.

A gold box is situated in the school reception area where nominations can be placed. Names of the children receiving gold awards are also shown.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGES



I hope the children have continued and enjoyed reading during the summer break. Please bring all completed reading challenges and sponsor money to the class teachers by Monday 13 September. Certificates will also be given out during assembly later in the month.

MORRISONS TOKENS



Once again we are collecting tokens from Morrisons to help buy new gardening equipment for the school. Please continue to send these in with your child as these free resources are very useful for our school grounds! Thank you.

SCHOOL DINNERS



The school dinner menu will remain the same until October half term and the kitchen will continue to provide the Yellow packed lunch option until then.

A reminder that lunches cost £2.00 per day and dinner money should be paid in advance on a Monday morning. Thank you.

CLERGY SUPPORT

Father Paul has now departed for a new ministry in Oxfordshire. We are very fortunate to have Mthr Gloria and Rev Ben as part of our team. They will be carrying out a Biblical based assembly every Tuesday morning and are available for pastoral guidance, including bereavement counselling for our whole community. Please make appointments via the school office.



PRAYER BOX



This year, we have introduced a prayer box; it is kept outside my office and the children can write a prayer on a piece of paper and place it in the box. This box will replace the prayer book previously kept in the hall.

PRAYER GROUP

A small group of parents and carers meet at school on Friday afternoons at 3.00pm. They pray for the school, its teachers and pupils and any problems that may arise during term time and they will also read the children's prayers from our new box. All are welcome to join this group (including younger children). Please come along or call Mrs Quarrie-Jones (92 450921) for more information.



CLUBS



Key Stage 2 Clubs will run from Monday 4 October until Friday 19 November 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 Tuesday 14 September.

HSA MEETING

The first HSA meeting of this year will be on Wednesday 15 September at 9.00am in the library. All welcome!

ST ALBAN'S LITTLE CANDLES



St Alban's Church will be starting their Little Candles services again this month. This is an informal service for all children who are not yet at school with their parents/carers/grandparents. Services are held on Mondays from 2.00-3.00pm on 13 September, 11 October, 8 November and 13 December.

ATTENDANCE



Punctuality and attendance are vital for a child's education.

90% attendance actually works out to a half day missed every week; which in a year means four weeks of lessons.

Five minutes late every day adds up to 25 minutes each week. Teachers often start the day with handwriting or maths skills which should not be missed.

Please make sure you phone the office by 10.00am at the latest if your child is going to be absent. If you do not do this, it may result in me having to visit your home to check that your child is safe.



There have previously been instances when a parent believes their child is at school when in fact they have not turned up for their first lesson.

Examples of authorised absences: genuine illness of a pupil, medical appointment, religious observance, approved holiday (for exceptional circumstances only), death of a close relative.

Examples of unauthorised absences: children or parents tired/overslept/late night, weather (unless school closed or severe conditions), illness of parent or carer, no clean uniform, headlice, child didn't want to come to school, older child's inset day, birthdays, buying new shoes, days out/short breaks.

I will not be authorising holidays during term time unless exceptional circumstances are given, particularly in May or September.

SCHOOL UNIFORM



Knight and Lee will be visiting the school on Thursday 23 September from 3.00pm for parents to purchase winter uniform.

All children will need to be wearing their winter uniform by Monday 4 October.

Children 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.

Earrings Please remember that only children in Year 6 are allowed to wear earrings and both boys and girls should wear a single small gold or silver stud in each ear. Please do not send other children into school with earrings that are covered by tape/plasters.

PE Kits In line with the healthy schools programme at St Alban's School, we are very keen to encourage physical exercise for our children. **PE kits should be in school every Monday** and only be taken home to wash on a Friday or at half term. Years R-5 should wear plimsolls and Year 6 may wear trainers. A change of socks should also be provided in PE bags.



KS2 Children in KS2 require a **plain** navy blue tracksuit (no logos or stripes) as they will be outside for PE lessons during the winter months. School tracksuits can be ordered from the school office.

Hats and Scarves When you start to buy hats and scarves for the winter, please make sure that these are either navy blue or red in line with our school uniform policy. The office stocks school winter hats which are warm and very smart!



FORTHCOMING LETTERS

Home School Agreement

At St Alban's, we feel that education does not start at 8.55am and finish at 3.30pm

and support from home is crucial to a child reaching their potential. A Home School Agreement outlining this will be sent home for you to read, sign and return.



Consent Forms

All children will receive a letter regarding photographs, food tasting, headlice checks and local walks. Please make sure that this is returned to your class teacher.

Emergency Contact Numbers

Please also complete and return the contact details request form. Correct telephone and mobile numbers are vital should we need to contact you in an emergency.



A checklist is provided below, which you may find useful.



DIARY DATES

A list of all class assemblies and other important dates throughout the term is also being sent home - please note these in your calendars.

With best wishes

CHECKLIST

- Returned Home School Agreement
- Returned Consent Form
- Returned Emergency Contact Form
- Written dates on the calendar