



St. Alban's C of E Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

NO 2

18 October 2011

Dear Parents



Thank you to everyone who attended our Harvest Celebrations on Friday. A special thank you also to the parents who made the hall look so attractive and to those who took the produce to the Two Saints Centre in West Leigh.

Well done also to everyone who supported the Dr Barnardo charity campaign.



This charity continues to champion the rights of under-privileged children in this country and communicate well with pupils so that they know exactly how their money has been spent. We will continue to support this charity throughout the school year.

Last week, I spent most of my time with Year 5 at Stubbington Study Centre. As usual, the children had a wonderful time and it was a pleasure to be with such a well-behaved and cheerful class!



On Friday I went to Westminster Abbey with Mrs Olive-Jones and ten Year 6 pupils for a Service of Celebration held for the Bicentenary of the National Society. The Archbishop of Canterbury led the service and it was attended by young people from almost every diocese in the country. Mrs Olive-Jones and I were extremely proud of the children who went with us to the Abbey and especially Harrison Martin who carried the Diocese of Portsmouth banner as part of the final procession.

ENGLISH DAY



Details regarding English Day on Thursday 3 November have been sent home. The aim of the day is to give an insight into teaching methods and approaches to English within our school and for you or grandparents to come and actively enjoy learning about English. This year, we are having a Philosophy for Children (known as P4C) focus, using English as a starting point. Philosophy is a tool for developing higher-order thinking skills and is particularly used to promote quality speaking and listening. Please remember to complete your form and return to school by 31 October.

INTERNET PAYMENTS



As you are aware, our new internet payment system is up and running. Parents have all been sent their initial log-code as well as a brief user guide. Several parents are already using this method to pay dinner money, trips and music and it is proving to be successful. If you would like more information about this facility or have lost or forgotten your code, please contact the school office.

CAKE SALE



The HSA will be holding a sale of cakes and party goods on Friday 21 October. Please send in a cake on Friday morning and come back at 3.00pm in the afternoon to buy another one!

LIBRARY NEWS

Puffin Books



Your child will be bringing home a Puffin Book Club leaflet. Please can you send your orders with payment to Mrs Welton in the library. Please make sure you enclose a cheque or your credit card details – not cash! Thank you.

Hampshire Illustrated Book Award (HIBA)

Once again, Year 5 will be participating in the Hampshire Illustrated Book Award. This is an exciting six week project whereby the children read and discuss six separate new title books and vote for the one they think is the best.



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!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair will be on Thursday 1 December and as usual the HSA will be needing almost 2,000 small gifts (10 per child), which can be sold at 20p to £2.00. Gifts do not need to be large and can include small jams/sweets, shoe/car cleaning kits, wellie pegs, soaps/smellies, stationery, bookmarks, decorated flowerpots, scrunchies/hair ties, candles, things for pets or anything for men. Please start to bring your donations into the school after half term, so that we can make this traditional event another great success!



PARKING



Please remember to take notice of driveways and junctions when parking in Littlegreen Avenue and St Alban's Road. One of the local residents has medical needs and has to have 24-hour access to her car and garage. Thank you.

SCHOOL DINNER MENUS



The school dinner choices will be changing after half term and your child will be bringing home a copy of the new menu this week.

PHONICS READING TEST

The Government have recently announced that the new Year 1 reading test will be compulsory for all Year 1 pupils in the week beginning 18 June.

DIARY DATES

Mon 24 Oct	Half term week
Mon 31 Oct	Children return to school
Thurs 3 Nov	English Day
Thurs 10 Nov	Parents' Evening
Wed 16 Nov	Parents' Evening
Wed 23 Nov	HSA Pamper Evening
Thurs 1 Dec	Christmas Fair
Fri 2 Dec	Christmas Dinner
Wed 7 Dec	KS2 Concert (afternoon)
Thurs 8 Dec	KS2 Concert (eve)
Mon 12 Dec	KS1 Nativity (morning)
	KS1 Party (afternoon)
Tues 13 Dec	Y3/4 Party (pm)
Wed 14 Dec	Y5/6 Party (pm)
Thurs 15 Dec	Pantomime (pm)
Fri 17 Dec	Last Day of Term
	End of Term Eucharist

With best wishes