



St. Alban's C of E Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

NO 9

7 February 2011

Dear Parents



Everything is well at St Alban's - there is a purposeful working atmosphere and staff and children all seem happy!

A worry on the horizon is the next school budget, which we receive in April. As you may have read in the media, many spending cuts are imminent. Already, our devolved capital budget, which we use for buildings and maintenance, has been cut from £30,000 per year to £6,000.

As St Albans is a church school it is the governors who are responsible for the upkeep and improvement of the school buildings, rather than the local authority. For a number of years, the school has been running a very successful Fund which has helped to provide the money to ensure that this responsibility is met.



In order to continue to meet this commitment, the Fund politely requests parents to contribute a **minimum of £5 per term, ie £15 per year.**

On a monthly basis this equates to just £1.25. If you are able to contribute more than the £5 per term that would be excellent!! In the future, without your help, we may not be able to continue to make improvements, such as the KS1 and Year 3/ Year 4 refurbishments.

A letter will be coming home later this week with more details on how you can contribute to this Fund.



Another new development is that pupils eligible for **free school meals will bring additional funding into the school**, called the Pupil Premium.

Unfortunately, we do not always know exactly how many families may be entitled to free school meals and we appreciate that disclosing this information can be a very sensitive issue. However, in order for the school to get maximum benefit from the Pupil Premium funding, we need to ensure that all those eligible notify us. This does not mean that the children need to have a school dinner, but by registering, maximum funds can be claimed.

I have attached an application form, so if you feel you meet the eligibility criteria, please complete and return it in an envelope to Mrs Mann as soon as possible. I would like to reassure you that all information will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.



MUSIC LESSONS



Just a reminder that there will be no instrumental tuition lessons next week (Monday 14 February) as there are parental appointments with the music teachers. There will also be no band practice on Thursday after school.

SCHOOL GROUNDS

During the last year, the HSA have been running a very efficient fundraising campaign to provide our children with an outdoor classroom. This has now been purchased - we have decided to buy a structure that is made out of recycled plastic bottles (it looks like wood!) as it does not require any maintenance, is durable and meets all our requirements. May I take this opportunity to thank anyone who has been involved with the fundraising for this exciting project.



Our next plan, will be the construction of a prayer garden on our school field. The School Council have been consulting with pupils throughout the school and designs have been submitted. The children would like an arched entrance with seating and a fence around the outside so that the area is completely marked out. They would like small seats in the shape of toadstools and a central flowerbed with scented flowers and bushes. Water features and wind chimes are also popular and as far as possible, the children's designs will be incorporated.



The HSA will make this prayer garden the next focus for their fundraising activities and this will be a place where children and staff can find some peace, away from the bustle of a busy school, to reflect and perhaps to pray for people they have loved and lost.



CAKE SALE



The HSA will be holding a sale of cakes and party goods on Friday 18 February. Please send in a cake on Friday morning and come back at 3.00pm in the afternoon to buy another one!

THANK YOU



Following my last newsletter, Reception class would like to thank everyone who has donated toys for their class. They are all looking forward to playing with them!

FREE BOOKSTART PACKS



Bookstart Plus packs are aimed at children aged 18-30 months and are free from the local library. The packs include a bright coloured bag, books, crayons, stickers, a number frieze and a Bookstart Toddler Book Guide. If you have a younger child and have not yet collected your free pack, please go to your local library before 31 March.

TERM DATES

Fri 18 Feb	HSA Cake Sale (3.00pm)
Mon 21 Feb	Half term week
Mon 28 Feb	Children return to school
Thurs 10 Mar	Numeracy Day
Wed 16 Mar	Parents' Evening
Thurs 24 Mar	Parents' Evening
Fri 25 Mar	RE Day
Fri 8 Apr	End of term Eucharist
Tues 26 Apr	Children return to school

With best wishes