



A message from Mrs Hordell

I would like to welcome our new families who have joined us this term. It is lovely to see how well our new children have settled in to life at St Alban's, particularly our Reception children who already seem to be very confident and curious learners who are thoroughly enjoying our newly improved outdoor learning area.

We are fast approaching our Harvest Festival celebrations which are taking place next week on 11th October. It is always good to take a moment in our busy lives to reflect on how much we can be grateful for. I hope you will be able to come along to join us in celebrating all of God's gifts to us as thankfulness is one of our four core values that we help children to reflect on during their time at our school. Times are included in the list of dates at the end of this newsletter.



Spiritual development at St Alban's

It is extremely important that we provide children with the opportunities and time at school to be able to reflect on and develop their own spirituality. Our Harvest Festivals are just one example of the opportunities we provide so that children can take time to pause and reflect on big questions, purposes and meaning in life. Being literate and numerate are extremely important but so too is supporting all children to become well-rounded individuals who have a positive impact in society. It is extremely hard to define spirituality in just a few words as it includes so many different dimensions. However, at St Alban's, our working definition is: 'exploring the mysteries of life and how these guide and connect us'.

Whole school home challenge - due in Friday 26th October



This term we have been focusing on one of our core values –Hope (*knowing that God can be relied upon*).

Please could you discuss as a family your ideas about the value of Hope and what this looks like in action at home and at school. As a family, please decide on a symbol/image that best represents hope to you that your child can draw, paint, collage etc for a display at school.

Thank you very much for your support with helping us to put our school values into action.

Reminders and updates

- Please remember to park considerately when dropping off and picking up. Residents are well within their rights to take details of number plates and report cases to the appropriate authorities which could lead to parents receiving fines. However, I would hope that they would not have to do this and that parents will instead think carefully about the impact their parking has on others.
- Please remember that from **31st October** all payments to school will need to be made online via TUCASI. If you need help to set up your account, please speak to a member of the office team as soon as possible as you will not be able to pay by cash after this date (e.g. for trips, lunches, music tuition).
- Please remember that all children should now be wearing **winter uniform**. Uniform requirements can be found on our school website (under the 'Our School' tab – 'Uniform') and also in the new entrants' handbook which our new families have received. This handbook contains useful, practical information and is also on our website should our existing families wish to look at this also.

'Inspired to make a difference in God's world with excellence and love'



- Congratulations to Evie Tambling for a fantastic effort and result in the Real Tennis Junior British Open Championships at the Queen's Club. Evie won the Girls Under 12s Plate competition which is a wonderful achievement.
- Congratulations also to Simon, our crossing patrol officer, who recently got married. Simon and his new wife Mandy have passed on their thanks for the wedding present they received from the school community.
- Good luck to Grace B in Year 1 who will be running the Great South Run Mini on 20th October to raise money for Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association.
- Attached is a list of dates for Home School Association (HSA) activities and events this year. You will receive more information nearer the time for the events listed. Please also consider offering a helping hand where possible. The HSA raises a lot of money for the children at St Alban's and this only happens due to the support of our parent community.

Online safety and safeguarding- PCSO Lee Hayward will return!



The response from parents to the workshops held at St Alban's in which PCSO Lee Hayward talked about how parents can keep their children safe online was extremely positive. We had lots of requests for him to return as the workshops were so helpful to all of the parents who came. We will be funding more workshops this year as it is such an important topic for all parents to be aware of and we will let you know when the dates have been finalised. In the meantime, Lee has given us his new website address which will provide a lot of useful information for parents.

www.onlinesafetyuk.com

Music at St Alban's

Music has been going from strength to strength and we have been awarded the Music Mark for the second year running. Well done to Miss Cork and all of the pupils, parents and staff who have been involved in any way in the musical life of the school. We have been awarded the Music Mark again following a nomination from Hampshire Music Service which has recognised that we ensure that our pupils are able to access and engage with a high-quality music education and for the school's dedication to offering and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.



Thank you

Thank you very much to the HSA committee and everybody who has been involved in fundraising for the school through many events and activities last year. The children have benefitted greatly from the very large amount raised, including new books, a special STEAM workshop day, additional equipment for the new Year R outside area and children's laptops. Mrs T James and Mrs Donovan are busily planning for a WW1 commemoration art project which is also being funded by the HSA and will help children to create something very special as we commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1.



Diary dates

<u>October</u>	
Thursday 4 th	Year 4 class worship - parents welcome (9.10am in the hall) KS1 Homework master class for parents 3.15 - 3.45pm (hall)
Wednesday 10 th	Prospective parent open morning (2 sessions: 9.10 -10.10, 10.45 - 11.45) Meet the teacher and phonics workshop YR at 5pm (class)
Thursday 11 th	KS1 Harvest Festival 9.10am KS2 Harvest Festival 3pm
Friday 12 th	School nurse - flu spray YR to Y5
Mon 15 th - Wed 17 th	Stubbington Y5
Wednesday 17 th	Meet the teacher and phonics workshop YR at 9am (hall)
Thursday 18 th	Year 2 class worship - parents welcome (9.10am in the hall)
Thur 18 th - Fri 19 th	Fairthorne Y4
Friday 19 th	Cake and second hand uniform sale 3.30pm
Monday 22 nd - 26 th	HALF TERM
Tuesday 30 th	Prospective parent open morning (2 sessions: 9.10 -10.10, 10.45 - 11.45)
<u>November</u>	
Thursday 1 st	KS2 Homework master class for parents 3.15 - 3.45pm
Friday 2 nd	Curriculum morning (topic focus)
	HSA Film Night 3.30pm
Wednesday 7 th	Individual pupil photos
Thursday 8 th	Year 1 class worship - parents welcome (9.10am in the hall)
Tuesday 13 th	Parents evening 2.15pm – 5.45pm
Thursday 15 th	Parents Evening 4pm – 7pm
Thursday 22 nd	Year 3 class worship - parents welcome (9.10am in the hall)
Friday 23 rd	Jolly Jam Jar day – children wear non-school uniform and bring a donation of a jam jar filled with treats to be sold at the children's Christmas Fair (more details to follow from HSA)
Friday 30 th	Children's present buying Christmas Fair (during the school day)
<u>December</u>	
Monday 10 th	Bikeability Y5 and Y6 - all week
Wednesday 12 th	KS2 Concert 2.15pm
Thursday 13 th	KS2 Concert 6.30pm
Friday 14 th	9-10am Mince pies for helpers Christmas lunch Christmas jumper day
Monday 17 th	KS1 Nativity -dress rehearsal to school 9.30am 2.45pm Reward tea party with Mrs Hordell
Tuesday 18 th	KS1 Nativity (parents/grandparents) 9.30am
Wednesday 19 th	KS1 Nativity (parents/grandparents) 9.30am pm KS1 party (hall)



Thursday 20 th	pm Y3/4 party
Friday 21 st	am Y5/6 party 2.15pm Eucharist (at school)
Mon 24 th Dec - Fri 4 th Jan	Christmas holidays
January	
Monday 7 th	Inset day
Tuesday 8 th	Children return to school