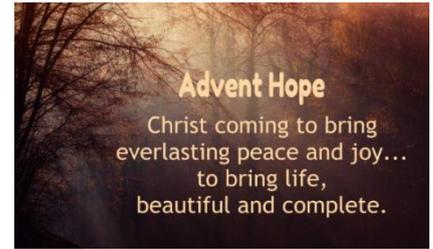




A message from Mrs Hordell

I cannot believe that we are rapidly approaching the end of term already. Please look out for communications and letters over the next few weeks as there are many events and activities happening during one of the busiest times of the year.



Love and hope in action – please support our collection

Mrs Cowdry recently talked to children in whole school worship about giving hope to others and suggested some of the ways in which we could all try to do this as we approach advent and Christmas. Our Christian values are extremely important, guiding all that we do as a school, and it would be wonderful if lots of members of our school community could contribute to making a positive difference to the lives of others by donating items to our local food bank (The Beacon Food Bank, Portsdown Community Church, Meridian Centre) to show love and hope in action.

We will have a box in our main reception from Monday 3rd December and would encourage families to donate items over the next few weeks. Items needed:

Coffee and Tea	Tinned Meat, tuna	Cooking Sauces
Pasta Sauces	Soup	Jam or Marmalade
Rice	Tinned Vegetables or Fruit	Meals in a tin
Sugar (500g)	Custard	Biscuits
Cereals	Rice Puddings	Bottles of Squash

Alternatively, you may like to have your own 'reverse advent calendar' at home, the contents of which you can then take to the Beacon Food bank directly (open weekdays 10am – 2pm). **What is a reverse advent calendar?** This is a calendar which gives back. The idea is simple; instead of opening the door to a chocolate or picture, you do the giving. People put aside a donation each day of advent, so they have a collection of goods ready to drop off in time for Christmas to a local food bank.

Reminders and updates – please read carefully

- Please could all parents ensure that their children are correctly dressed when they arrive at school in the morning, including ensuring that their hair is in line with our policy. Please could I also ask all parents to note the uniform requirements in relation to coats, hats and scarves as we are now experiencing much colder weather:
Hats, coats and bags *Winter hats, gloves and scarves must be plain navy, black or red only. A winter hat is available from Skoolkit (this is optional). Boys and girls wear a navy blue or black plain top coat. A school coat with a logo is available.*
- Thank you to our School Council, able supported by Mrs Flores, for their wonderful fundraising efforts for Children in Need recently. Thank you also to all of our school community who supported the events in some way, raising just over £250.
- **Christmas jumper day in aid of Save the Children – Friday 14th November.** For a donation of just £1 children can wear a Christmas jumper instead of their normal school jumper (all other clothing must be normal school uniform).
- We will be sorry to say goodbye to Mrs J Boxall at the end of this term as she moves on to a new role in the NHS working for CAHMS. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her contribution to the school over the past few years and in wishing her all the best for her new role. I am currently working on the recruitment process for Mrs Boxall's role. With notice periods and the time needed to advertise, it is likely that a new person will not be able to start until late in the spring term. Please could I ask all parents to bear with us over the next few months as our current team will be short staffed and only able to carry out essential tasks during this time.

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Governor news

We are delighted to welcome three new governors this term. Mr Alex Rennie is joining us as our Local Authority appointed governor and we also welcome two new Foundation Governors, Mr Chris Tunnicliffe and Mrs Brenda Gay. All of our new governors bring a wealth of experience to our school and have already begun to find out more about the St Alban's school community. I am also pleased to announce that Mrs Tracey Smith and Mr Drew Hedger have been appointed as Co-Chairs of the Governing Body. Mrs Louise Lynton-Evans is our new Vice Chair.

To St Alban's School Community,

As many of you will be aware our previous Chair of Governors, Sarah Barton stepped down from her position at the end of the last academic year. Sarah was an exceptional Chair and we would again like to thank her for all her hard work.

We are delighted and privileged to have been elected as co-chairs for this academic year. The decision to co-chair will not affect the day-to-day running of the school nor the role of the governing body. We are thoroughly committed to leading a team of hard working governors to ensure the wellbeing and education of all St Alban's pupils.

Whilst the role of Chair will remain as one, the duties and responsibilities will be shared jointly between us. Where possible we will make a joint decision but our responsibilities as chair can also be taken on an individual basis, where necessary, and will be fully supported by the other. You can find a formal statement of intent for the co-chair role on the school website.

Rest assured that whilst upholding the school's values and vision we will strive to maintain that every child has access to an enriched education offering all of the opportunities that they deserve. We very much look forward to working closely with Mrs Hordell and the Senior Leadership team to ensure that St Alban's remains the school that we all know and love.

Kindest regards,

Tracey Smith and Drew Hedger

HSA

I would like to thank the HSA committee and all of the many dedicated and hard working parents, staff and friends who contributed in some way to record-breaking fundraising efforts last year. Well over £12,000 was raised with £11,000 spent on projects to benefit the children at our school. This is absolutely amazing, particularly considering we are a relatively small primary school.

Applications for Year R – September 2019 entry

If your child was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015, they will be eligible to start school in the school year beginning September 2019. Applications can be submitted from 1st November 2018 via the Hampshire County Council website at www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2019 (midnight). Parents will be notified of a school place on 16th April 2019 (typically by email unless you have submitted a paper application instead of doing this online, in which case you will be informed by letter).

Please remember, if you would like to apply under the faith criteria (linked to church attendance), you must also complete a school 'supplementary information form' and return to the school by the deadline of 15th January 2019. These are available on our website and if you have difficulty downloading this form, please ask for a copy from the school office. Our admissions policy is also available on our website.

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Diary dates

<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 in aid of Save the Children
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
<u>January</u>	
Monday 7 th	Inset day
Tuesday 8 th	Children return to school
Tuesday 15 th	Closing date for Year R admissions (Hampshire)
Thursday 24 th	Year 2 class worship – parents welcome (9.10am in the hall)
Thursday 31 th	Year 5 class worship – parents welcome (9.10am in the hall)
<u>February</u>	
Thursday 7 th	Year 6 class worship – parents welcome (9.10am in the hall)
Tuesday 12 th	Safer internet day and assembly/activities
Thursday 14 th February	Year 4 class worship – parents welcome (9.10am in the hall)
Friday 15 th	HSA Cake sale 3.30pm
Monday 18 th -22 nd	Half term
Monday 25 th	Inset day
<u>March</u>	
Wednesday 6 th	Curriculum open afternoon - worship and prayer stations 2.30pm – 4pm
Thursday 7 th	World book day activities
Tuesday 12 th	Parents evening 2.15pm - 5.45pm
Thursday 14 th	Parents evening 4pm – 7pm
Friday 15 th	Red nose day (activities tbc)
Thursday 21 st	Year 3 class worship – parents welcome (9.10am in the hall)
Friday 22 nd March	HSA Film Night
Thursday 28 th	Year 1 class worship – parents welcome (9.10am in the hall)

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April	
Wednesday 3 rd	Reward tea party with Mrs Hordell
Thursday 4 th	HSA Easter Egg hunt
Friday 5 th	Eucharist (2.15pm at St Alban's Church)
Mon 8 th - Mon 22 nd	Easter Holidays & Bank holiday