



A message from Mrs Hordell

I hope you have all had a wonderful half term. It is lovely to return to school with such beautiful weather and the prospect of so many more opportunities for pupils to use our school grounds for both learning and pleasure. As well as continuing to improve our grounds to attract pollinating insects, we also have plans this term and during the summer to improve our pond and nature area. When completed this will be a wonderful learning resource for our children.

Our 'Pollinator Promise' campaign continues to go from strength to strength. Miss Newman recently gave a talk to Church School Headteachers and Chairs of Governors to explain to them how their schools can also help children to become good stewards of God's world through increasing food and shelter in their grounds for pollinating insects. The Diocese of Portsmouth are using St Alban's as an example of excellent practice to inspire other Church schools and a wonderful video of our children explaining how to become more involved is being shown to all Church School Headteachers across the Diocese. Well done to the staff and children who have created such an inspiring project.

If you are quite new to the school and would like to know a bit more about our project, please visit the link below to read an article written about us (and also instructions about how to make a 'pollinator promise'). We currently have 440 promises that have been made and the children would love to see this number increase even more.

<https://www.opalexplenature.org/polli-promise>



Ash Wednesday 'Pop Up' Prayer Stations - school open afternoon

Wednesday 6th March 3.00pm – 4pm

Please come along to our prayer station open event on Wednesday 6th March between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. This will be an opportunity for parents to visit 'pop up' prayer stations around the school with their children. There will also be an opportunity for parents to contribute their ideas for a school prayer that we are hoping to produce this year.



This will be a great opportunity to become involved in the prayer life of the school and to see the depth of spirituality that children can achieve. It will also be a good opportunity for parents to visit the classrooms and to see the lovely work on display from the wide range of curriculum topics that children have been engaging in. Look out in particular for the very high quality art work around the school.



Attendance

In accordance with the Department for Education and Hampshire County Council, the school does not authorise holidays during school term time and will issue fines for absences from school (e.g. term time holidays) that have not been approved by the Headteacher. The school does not keep the proceeds of any fines that are issued (these are paid to the County Council).

Please note that absences are only authorised in exceptional circumstances, in line with Hampshire policy. Full details of the regulations are available in our attendance policy, which can be found on our website. If a parent/carer needs to request a leave of absence for any reason, this must be submitted in writing at least two weeks beforehand where possible, on the school's Leave of Absence form (available from the school office).

Punctuality and attendance are vital for a child's education. 90% attendance actually means that a child has missed four weeks of lessons in an academic year. Regular and full time attendance is essential if children are to benefit fully from their education and parents have a legal duty to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

Please make sure you contact the office by 9.00am at the latest if your child is going to be absent. You will be able to leave a message on the school's absence line giving the reason for the absence. If we do not receive a message, we will contact you to enquire why your child is absent as not knowing the whereabouts of our pupils is a child protection and safeguarding risk.

Five minutes late every day adds up to 25 minutes each week. Registration is a vital part of the school day and includes important tasks that set the children up ready for the lessons ahead. In line with Hampshire County Council, penalty notices may also be issued for repeated lateness.

Love and hope in action – please support our food bank collection

Please remember that we have a box in our main reception area for donations to our local food bank (The Beacon Food Bank, Portsdown Community Church, Meridian Centre). Items needed include:

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

Havant and Leigh Park Good Neighbours

Havant and Leigh Park Good Neighbours are a local voluntary group based at the Community Centre, Leigh Park who are looking for VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

- Can you spare an hour to take Annie to Oak Park Clinic for her podiatry appointment?
- Or a couple of hours to take George to his hospital appointment at the Eye Clinic, Queen Alexandra Hospital?
- Or any one of our clients who require transport to attend appointments or visit the shops etc?

You will be able to claim a petrol allowance of 45p per mile and any parking charges you may incur.

Please call 07908 435 657 for an informal chat if you would like to help us deliver these essential services.





Reminders and updates – please read carefully

- Please remember that children will be able to wear summer uniform when we return after the Easter holidays.
- You will be receiving information shortly to enable you to book a parents' evening appointment online using the system we used last term.
- We have an externally run after school Karate Club at school on Thursdays (3.30pm – 4.30pm) for children in Years 2 to Year 6 at our school. If you are interested in your child attending this club, please telephone 07738914291 (SAMA Karate Organisation) for more details including cost.

Diary dates

March	
Wednesday 6 th	Curriculum open afternoon - worship and prayer stations 3.00pm – 4pm
Thursday 7 th	World book day activities – see letter already sent home for details
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)
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)
Friday 19 th	Good Friday family craft morning 10am – 12noon
Mon 8 th - Mon 22 nd	Easter Holidays & Bank holiday
May	
Monday 13 th	KS2 SATS begin
Saturday 18 th	May Fair
Monday 20 th	SRE Y5/6 parent meeting 5pm
Wednesday 22 nd	SRE Y5/6 parent meeting 2.45pm
Friday 24 th	HSA Cake sale
Mon 27 th - Fri 31 st	Half term
June	
Friday 7 th	Class photos (& November individual photo absentees)
Friday 14 th	New Year R parent meeting 2.15pm



Friday 21 st	Sports day
Monday 24th	Inset day
Wednesday 26 th	New Yr R children and parents visit to class 9.10am – 10.20am
Friday 28 th	Sports day back up day
July	
Wednesday 3 rd	New YR children visit to class 9.10am – 10.20am (parents in hall)
Thursday 4 th	4pm - 6pm - Open evening
Monday 15 th	Reward tea party with Mrs Hordell 2.45pm
Tuesday 16 th	KS2 Summer concert 2.15pm
Wednesday 17 th	Transition morning KS2 Summer concert 6.30pm
Monday 22 nd	Year 6 Leavers' concert 2.30pm
Tuesday 23 rd	Eucharist (2.15pm at St Alban's Church) Last day of term