



A message from Mrs Hordell

We have had a busy half term so far and it has been lovely to see so many of you at our recent parents evenings, prayer station open afternoon and esafety workshops. Children are continuing to work very hard and I am pleased to see how much they appear to be enjoying their topics and engaging in their learning. A broad and interesting curriculum for our children is extremely important to us at St Alban's, and I have been very pleased to see the high quality work children are producing in a range of curriculum subjects. I have included some examples here of the types of learning children engage in at school, and I am sure you will agree that the children can be very proud of their achievements.



Seeking your views

We have come to the time of the year when we start thinking about our next school improvement plan and those things that we really want to improve on and develop next year. The leadership team and I would be very pleased to hear parent views on areas that you feel should be our priorities next year. Please could you let us know your thoughts by email (admin@st-albans.hants.sch.uk) Thank you very much for your help with this.

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



Site and safeguarding news



I am very pleased that a large number of improvements to our site will be taking place this term and next term. We have been working behind the scenes for several months to obtain quotes, secure funding and organise contractors and I am looking forward to seeing benefits to our site as projects are completed.

We have been particularly keen to improve the safety of our site and are now able to complete the final stages of this work with additional fencing in the car park area; the Diocese of Portsmouth have agreed with us that this is a safeguarding priority and have helped us to fund a large proportion of the work. Your support for the Home School Association is also greatly appreciated as funds have been allocated to a number of projects this year that will have a great benefit to our children.

Over the next few months you will also notice a brand new bike shed. This will be in a much safer location in the KS2 playground to ensure that parents and children are not crossing a car park to bring their bikes to school. The pond bridge is also going to be repaired so that we can make better use of this fantastic resource to enhance our curriculum. We will also be having a lot of external painting work carried out which will include our colourful pencil fencing. This will start next week so please be careful when coming to the school site. The contractors are DBS checked and used to working on school sites and will ensure that they work safely at all times.

Please help us – clean air appeal for no ‘idling zones’ around our school

Thank you very much to members of our parent community who have highlighted the increasing amount of traffic pollution around our school site when parents are waiting in their cars with the engine ‘idling’. As a school we would agree that the smell is very unpleasant and there are worrying health implications of breathing in traffic pollution, particularly for children.

A recent BBC News article has highlighted the dangers in leaving car engines switched on:

‘Public health chiefs have proposed a ban on cars idling outside school gates in a bid to cut air pollution. The measure is among a series of UK-wide recommendations put forward by Public Health England. PHE medical director Paul Cosford told the BBC: "We should stop idling outside schools and we should make sure that children can walk or cycle to school." PHE said 28,000 to 36,000 deaths a year in the UK could be attributed to long-term exposure to air pollution.’

Please could I ask all parents to make a special effort to remember to switch off their engines when waiting in the roads around the school. Thank you very much.

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

Thank you to members of our community who have donated items to our 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:

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|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |



Staffing update

I have been delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our school office this term. Mrs Joliffe who has a background in school administration is joining us every Monday morning to support Mrs Richards with the finance work of the school. Mrs Fox has also joined us as Senior Administrative Officer and PA and comes to us with considerable school experience which I know will be particularly helpful to us.

Mrs Donovan, who has worked for many years at our school, has decided that she would like to take a different direction next year to take on new, exciting opportunities that are available to her. Mrs Donovan is a highly valued member of our team and I know she will be missed by staff, parents, governors and children. As a member of the leadership team and as a highly effective Year 6 teacher, Mrs Donovan has helped our school go from strength to strength. I am sure you will want to join me in wishing her well in the next phase of her life and in thanking her for all she has done for the school. I am in the process of advertising for a new teacher for September 2019 and hope to be able to update you next term.

Reminders and updates – please read carefully

- Well done to the School Council, Mrs Flores and everybody who supported our recent 'Red Nose Day' fundraising efforts. There were many, many miles travelled on the exercise bike and lots of cake bought at our Cake Sale. The total raised was an impressive £296!
- Please remember that children will be able to wear summer uniform when we return after the Easter holidays.
- 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.
- Please remember that there is no school supervision before 8.45am on the site so it is important that children do not arrive before this time in the morning. Doors open at 8.45am (closing promptly at 8.55am). If your child arrives after the doors have been closed, please enter through main reception where your child will need to give their lunch order before going to class.
- Please remember that dogs are not allowed on the school site, even if they are being carried.
- Congratulations to Year 4 who recently won the class attendance award.
- Congratulations Beth (Year 3) for demonstrating a great commitment to sport. Beth recently had the opportunity to experience what life would be like as part of her favourite team, Chelsea, winning 'The Extra Mile' competition. Beth won the competition by telling the story of how her love of football and desire to get involved with the sport resulted in her playing for an all-boys' team. As part of the experience, Beth was invited to Cobham to watch the Chelsea Women's squad in training, joining some of her favourite players in a kick-around and attending a professional football match for the first time, walking out with the players as mascot. Well done Beth – you're huge commitment and enthusiasm is great to see!

Diary dates

March	
Thursday 28 th	Year 1 class worship – parents welcome (9.10am in the hall)
	3pm African drumming performance (to Year 4 parents)
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 11am -3pm
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