

St Alban's Church of England Aided Primary School

Newsletter

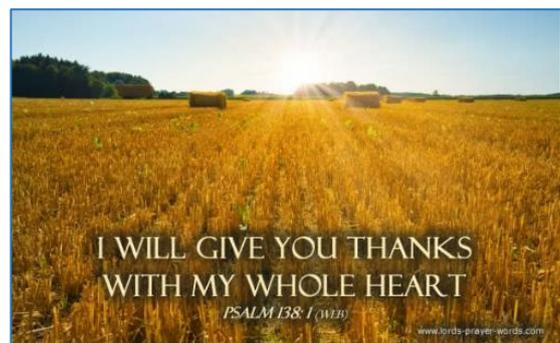


4th October 2019

Dear parents/carers

Welcome to all of our new children and their families who have joined us this term. It is wonderful 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 thoroughly enjoying their learning. It is also very pleasing to see how much children are enjoying their learning and topics when I visit their classes and talk to them about their learning. Welcome also to the members of staff who joined us this term. Mrs Sievers has joined the admin team and Miss King joins us as Year 4 teacher. Mrs Griffiths who works in the school office is currently absent from school as she is unwell and I am sure you will join me in wishing her a speedy recovery. Thank you very much to Mrs Sievers and Mrs Cromey who are providing additional help in Mrs Griffiths' absence.

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 in a world where it is so easy to perhaps only notice the negative. I hope you will be able to come along to join us in celebrating all of God's gifts to us. Thankfulness is one of our four core values and our harvest celebrations help us to reflect on this value.



Curriculum information

Please visit our website to find out more about our curriculum under the 'Our School' tab. <https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/our-school/our-curriculum> Here you will be able to read about our curriculum intent and our curriculum model. This includes our end of year expectations for each curriculum subject and year group curriculum maps showing topics and content studied each year. Although curriculum topics and content is allocated to different half terms on the year group plan, teachers may sometimes change the order of units of work and topics. You will also be able to find out about how our curriculum goes beyond the National Curriculum with the additional opportunities we provide and how we develop pupils spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, including the promotion of British values.

Parking plea

Please can I urge all parents to park legally and considerately. Please consider the children at our school, residents and other road users when making parking choices. In particular, please could all parents remember that **parking bays in Flexford Gardens are private parking spaces for residents only**. Some residents have been very inconvenienced by being unable to park in their bays and have been advised to take registration numbers to report to the authorities for action to be taken.

Please could I also ask parents to ensure that their child is safely supervised when crossing the road. We have had reports of children being dropped off in the morning by parents who are staying in their cars and allowing their child to cross alone, which has resulted in near misses when children have crossed unsafely.

Parent Prayer Group – all welcome

Please remember that all parents are welcome to join the parent prayer group which meets every Wednesday morning at 9am during term time to pray for the St Alban's school community. If you want to know more about the group then please speak to Amanda Hickey or Sheila Horton or catch them by the office on a Wednesday before they meet.



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



School improvement planning

Our new school improvement plan sets out our key improvement priorities. We have very high outcomes each year because our school improvement work is very effective in helping us to continuously improve our school. Our key priorities for improvement in 2019-2020 are as follows:

- Priority 1: Ensure the implementation of our curriculum enables more pupils to become active learners
- Priority 2: Increase the impact of subject leaders to further improve the quality of education

We will be taking many actions during the year to achieve these improvement priorities including staff training and setting up Teacher and Teaching Assistant research groups to develop strategies and approaches that can help all of our pupils to become active, motivated learners who take even more responsibility for their learning.

Alongside these areas and the day to day work of the school, we will also be taking actions to further improve mental health provision for pupils, further improving staff workload, and improving the efficiency of our child protection recording and reporting systems through the introduction of a new electronic system.

Attendance matters

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). Absences are only authorised in exceptional circumstances, in line with Hampshire policy

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. 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.

Applications for Year R September 2020 entry

If your child was born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, they will be eligible to start school in the school year beginning September 2020. Applications can be submitted from **1st November 2019** via the Hampshire County Council website at www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions.

The closing date for applications is **15th January 2020 (midnight)**. Parents will be notified of a school place on 16th April 2020 (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 2020. These are available on our website only; 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.

Music at St Alban's

Music continues to go from strength to strength at St Alban's and we have been awarded the Music Mark for the third year running. Well done to staff, children, parents and peripatetic 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. We are delighted that Miss King who joined us this term as our Year 4 teacher also comes to us with a very musical background and will be further developing our music provision this year.



Kidzone childcare

Before and after school childcare is provided for St Alban's School by 'Kidzone'. Please contact Gill Wrixon on 07976 611713 or visit www.kidzonechildcare.co.uk if you require further information. Children are offered a full range of activities and are provided with a breakfast or teatime snack. Kidzone are Ofsted registered and can take bookings for every day or just a one-off occasion.

'Cultivation Street' winning entry

Congratulations to everyone involved in creating our grow bag display for our 'Cultivation Street' competition entry which won the judges vote (with a prize of £500 and 100 plug plants to continue our work in this area).



Our children were keen to reuse containers, to fit in with our 'plastic pledge' and environmental approach and so decided to use unwanted handbags as containers as an alternative to traditional 'grow bags'. Staff, volunteers, and local charity shops donated bags and these were filled with soil dug up from the grounds, with the help of our gardening volunteers. Plants overwintered from last year in the mini greenhouse were used again alongside this year's fresh plants which the children really enjoyed planting.

As an environmentally friendly means of staging the bags, a local electrical wholesaler delivered some cable drums and children arranged the bags on the drums, adding in chalkboard signs to finish. The plants have been looked after very well by our volunteer breaktime waterers and I am sure you will agree they made a beautiful display.

Sporting success



Congratulations to everybody who has contributed in some way to PE and Sport at our school; your combined efforts have resulted in St Alban's being awarded the **School Games Mark Silver award**.

Well done to Isabelle who recently took part in an ice skating competition and came second, winning Silver. Isabelle has shown great determination and dedication in her efforts to continue to improve her skills.



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. He also led workshops with KS2 children that were extremely well received. We had lots of requests for him to return as the workshops were so helpful to all of the parents who came. This is a very important topic for all parents to be aware of and we are grateful to the Home School Association who have agreed to fund these workshops so that they can continue. We will let you know when the dates have been finalised. In the meantime, Lee has given us his website address which will provide a lot of useful information for parents: www.onlinesafetyuk.com

With best wishes

Mrs Hordell