



October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has only been a few weeks since all children returned to school under the new covid-secure arrangements and it has been lovely to see how quickly children of all ages have adapted to the new routines and systems. Most importantly, it has been wonderful to see how much all of our children seem to be benefitting from being back at school after such a long period of disruption last year. Staff have received training at our inset days in September in how to effectively teach children about mental wellbeing, which is being taught as part of our personal, social and health education curriculum (PSHE). We anticipate that this will be very helpful to all of our children, not least to those who may have been most affected by the impact of the covid pandemic.

Thank you very much to our entire parent community for the support you have shown and also for your patience and flexibility with the new routines and arrangements we have had to put in place. All staff appreciate that these arrangements have not always been easy for parents to manage and I cannot thank you enough for doing your best under difficult circumstances. We are constantly reviewing and monitoring the operational systems that are in place and as soon as we are able to; aim to return to as much normality as possible in how we operate at school. You will notice from the dates listed below that a lot of our established events and activities are not listed because they cannot happen due to the current guidance for schools in how to remain covid secure. Unfortunately, while the picture nationally is deteriorating, we cannot return to normality at school as soon as we would like to.

Staff have been working very hard to support children at school as well as preparing to support children at home when this may be required. Teachers have had training in how to use Google classroom for this purpose and parents recently received information about how to access and use this platform at home. Teachers have been training children at school in how to log on and use Google classroom, and we are using this platform for weekly home learning records which we hope will ensure that both children and parents are confident in using Google classroom should they need to use it (for example, if there are any more lockdowns or requirements to self-isolate due to a positive case at home or school). At the time of writing, I can confirm that we have had no confirmed cases of Covid-19 notified to us within our school community, which I hope remains the case.

Term dates

- Half Term – School Closed Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October 2020
- INSET Day – Monday 2 November 2020 SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS
- Last day of Autumn Term – Friday 18 December 2020
- Christmas Holidays – School Closed Monday 21 December to Friday 1 January 2021
- INSET DAY – Monday 4 January 2021 SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS
- Start of Spring Term – Tuesday 5 January 2021
- Half term – School Closed Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2021
- INSET Day – Monday 22 February 2021 SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS

Events

- Thursday 15 October – Year 1 pupils height and weight check (only pupils who missed session in April)
- Friday 16 October - Love in action Harvest food bank collection (more details to follow)
- Sunday 1 November – Applications open for Year R September 2021 entry
- Week beginning 9 and 16 November – Parents' evening remote appointments (more details to follow)
- Friday 4 December– Whole school flu immunisations (further details to follow with new e-form consent)



- Monday 14 December – Christmas parties and Jumper Day (for Save the Children)
 - Monday 15 March 2021 - Individual school photos
 - Friday 28 May 2021 - Class school photos
- (Please note that these events could be subject to change)

Gardening success – Cultivation Street competition

Cultivation Street is a campaign to help and encourage people grow and garden together. Each year, it runs a national competition to find the best school garden. We have a long history at St Alban's of gardening and learning outdoors, driven by the passions of many staff, pupils, parents and volunteers, both past and present. We have been shortlisted for the past two years and, this year, we are delighted to have been awarded second place.



Well done to Miss Newman, who leads our school in this work, and all of the members of our school community who have contributed to this great achievement.

Parent consultation – timings of the school day

Thank you to the parents who submitted a response to the consultation regarding our proposal to alter the timings of the school day (moving the finish times for Year R and KS1 to 3.10pm, and 3.15pm for KS2). All of the responses have been collated, analysed and reviewed at a recent full governing body meeting and the outcome of the consultation will be communicated to all stakeholders in the coming days. As is the case with consultations, individual feedback will not be provided to individual respondents.

Applications for Year R September 2021 entry

If you have a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, they will be eligible to start school in the school year beginning September 2021. Applications can be submitted from **1 November 2020** via the Hampshire County Council website at www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions.

The closing date for applications is **15th January 2021 (midnight)**. Parents will be notified by Hampshire County Council of a school place on 16th April 2021 (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 2021. 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.

Note the following Admission policy variation for 2021 Admissions for those who apply under the faith criteria: ***In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church [Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Portsdown Community Church (The Beacon), Salvation Army, United Reformed Church, Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Denvilles Ecumenical Church (DEC), Evangelical Alliance members] has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these [admissions] arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship".***

Open evenings and parent tours

Regrettably we are unable to run tours or visits for prospective new parents due to the high risk of coronavirus transmission that these would pose. Hampshire County Council's Public Health Team have recently written to schools to confirm that events such as these should not occur in the light of current Covid-19 restrictions.

We will be aiming to publish a virtual tour on our website just after the October half term.

Year 6 Secondary school applications

Reminder that parents of pupils in Year 6 will need to apply for a Year 7 place in a secondary school for September 2021. For further details please visit the following website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>

Essential items in school only

Please be reminded that pupils must only bring into school essential items - no overnight bags for example.

May we also request please for pupils not to bring to school 'treats' for other pupils in class – i.e. for a birthday celebration.

Contacting staff and visiting the school

- While we are operating under Covid-19 requirements, parents/carers unfortunately cannot access the school office in person or any other part of the school building and are not able to approach the classroom doors to talk to staff as they did in the past.
- If parents/carers need to speak to a member of staff please email admin@st-albans.hants.sch.uk or telephone the school office 023 9248 2072 and a member of staff will contact you as soon as they are able to. Please remember that staff are teaching and working with children during the school day and have scheduled training and meetings after school. Therefore they may not be able to respond immediately to messages they receive.
- Only essential, emergency appointments with staff can take place on the school site (where a telephone call is not possible, or cannot resolve the issue).
- Anyone with an appointment to access the school site will need to wear a face mask and provide contact details to meet with requirements for NHS Test and Trace. This information will be treated confidentially and shredded after a three month period.

Collection arrangements

If you have a change to who is collecting your child after school, please contact the office ideally before 12:00 and by email please where possible - so we can inform teachers during afternoon registration. We are currently receiving a lot of telephone calls very late in the afternoon regarding collection changes and this means that we are having to interrupt teachers in the middle of their lessons, sometimes repeatedly, which is not conducive to good learning. For pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 - if you have changes for collection, please encourage your child to inform their teacher(s) directly.

Contact details

Please ensure the school has your most up to date contact details – in particular mobile telephone numbers so we can be sure to get hold of you. If you have a change, please email it through to admin@st-albans.hants.sch.uk

Staffing update

Welcome to our new lunch supervisors, Mrs S Page and Mrs M Pembleton who have recently joined our team. We are hoping to recruit more lunchtime supervisors to help us. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please ask them to look out for our advert which will be appearing shortly on Hampshire County Council's Education Jobs website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/jobs/education-jobs>

Welcome to Miss F-M Maubert, Miss K Whitewood and Miss L Westbrook who have joined our Learning Support Assistant team this year. Thank you and good luck also to Mr E Yelf who has given many years of service to the school and has recently left his Learning Support Assistant role.

Dinner money

Please can we remind parents to ensure they have a credit on their child's Scopay account to cover school lunches. Reminder texts will be sent on a Friday if your debt has reached £10.00 or more. **If we do not receive payment we will ask that you provide a home packed lunch for your child until the debt is cleared.**

Drop off and pick up arrangements – key update messages

- To maintain social distancing requirements, please avoid congregating to talk with other parents/carers.
- Please can we ask parents/carers who have travelled to school by car to leave the school site straight away (where if possible) to free up your parking space for parents whose pupils start/finish later.
- Please keep younger siblings or children with you when collecting from the KS2 playground and do not let them use the adventure playground area.
- All children must leave and arrive via the gates that they normally use at all times – including if they arrive in / or leave school later due to a medical appointment. This is to help us manage infection control and not mix bubbles with other non-teaching staff.
- We strongly discourage any non-urgent medical appointment in school hours.

Forgotten items

If your child has forgotten an item, please only attempt to bring it back into school if it is essential. If the item is not essential, you will not be able to come into the school office in order to bring it in. For example, parents will not be able to access the school site in order to bring in forgotten water bottles, break time snacks or book bags.

Cars around the school premises

Please can I urge all parents to drive sensibly and to park legally and considerately at all times. Please consider the children at our school, residents and other road users. We continue to receive reports of the following:

- near misses with speeding cars along St. Alban's Road
- cars blocking driveways and parking in residents parking
- Cars waiting at pick-up times with their engines running

Please respect the neighbourhood and the environment that our school is located in.

Havant Borough Council Enforcement Team have asked that parents and residents who notice illegal parking report this to the parking office by calling 0300 555 0705 so that penalty notices can be issued (please note the car registration number). I would also add that taking a photograph clearly showing the car registration number and parking problem would be helpful. If a Civil Enforcement Officer is present, complaints of illegal parking at the time can be made directly to them and where necessary, fines will be issued.

KS2 morning break time snacks from home

We recommend parents provide a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable for their child to enjoy at break time. Children will not be able to have any other type of snack at this time. KS1 children will continue to receive a piece of fruit or vegetable as part of the Government's scheme.

Lunch box contents

- We want to encourage healthy eating
- Remember no nuts and we do not allow 'Fruit Winders'
- Children are not allowed to have a fizzy drink in their packed lunch
- If your child brings grapes into school, please cut them in half (long ways) as they are a choking hazard if left whole

Accident reporting

We have a set procedure for dealing with any accident and resulting injuries. So, if a child receives a head bump, a text will be sent out to notify you and a yellow note will go home in the school book bag where possible.

If your child incurs anything other than a 'minor' injury we will always endeavour to contact you via your priority contact number to discuss what has happened.

Kidzone childcare

Before and after school childcare is provided for St Alban's School by 'Kidzone' and they use the school hall. Please contact Gill Wrixon on 07976 611713 or visit www.kidzonechildcare.co.uk if you require further information. Children are offered a 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.

Uniform & lost Property

Please remember to add name labels to all pupil items so that we can avoid items being lost. We are not currently running a lost property box in school and if your child is missing any items, please ask your child to speak with the class teacher in the first instance, or send in a note for the teacher to check classroom areas.

Medicines in school update

We are currently undergoing a review of pupil medication in school – thank you to all those parents who have been contacted recently for your help in ensuring that we have all essential medicines in school to manage any underlining health conditions. Please remember to update the school if your child has any changes to their health or medicines – thank you.

Review of Consent Forms – Years 1-6

We are conducting a review of the parental consent information we have on record for pupils in Years 1 to 6. Please look out for an email in the coming week (with consent forms) in order for the school to gather updated information for our records on consents such as ‘image/photo’, ‘food tasting’ and ‘sting relief’.

With best wishes,

Mrs Hordell
Headteacher

