



ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 1, 2017-2018

Attendance

As term begins, please can I remind all parents of our important Alban Wood attendance policy – copies to be found in our main reception area. **Excellent attendance is paramount to children’s wellbeing, future success and to achieving their best in learning,** and the governing body and leaders at Alban Wood are fully committed to forming an excellent partnership between home and school to support all children and families with this aim. Our policy and procedures are fully in line with those issued by Herts (and indeed Nationally) and, in particular, it is clear that we are unable to authorise any leave of absence – for example, for holidays. Please check our school term dates (our website or term cards in the office). Thank you for your understanding.

Security of our school site

As you will know, we now have electric gates which continue to support the safety of all pupils, parents and staff. Whilst this reduces the amount of cars in the car park there will still be some (disabled badge holders, staff, visitors). I request therefore that **parents continue to support their children to walk on the path** and not in the middle of the car park – thank you for your support with this. In addition to this please can I remind you **that dogs are not permitted on the school site.**

Friday assembly – celebrations!

During our weekly celebration assembly on a Friday we like to celebrate achievements both in and out of the classroom. If your child has received an award, certificate or trophy for an out of school achievement (sporting or other) please bring it in on a Friday so that the whole school can celebrate this.

Parent Workshops

We are committed to offering a parent workshop at least once every half term this year, making sure that these are very relevant to specific targeted year groups. **Mrs Gainfort will be running a Phonics workshop for Reception and Year 1 parents on Wednesday 4th October at 2.30pm.** We hope you can join us! Please look out for other workshop dates in our next newsletter!

PTA meeting

The PTA would like to hold their first meeting of this academic year on **Monday 25th September**, after school. All are welcome at this meeting as we would love to see the PTA continue to grow and grow. As the festive period will be here before we know it (!) the PTA will be particularly busy organising Christmas events – all help greatly received!

Just a few dates for this term!

- Individual and family photographs: Wednesday 20th September
- Take One Book Week: the week beginning 25th September
- Governor Day: Monday 25th September
- Parents’ week: the week beginning 9th October
- Half term: the week beginning 23rd October

Electronic Newsletter

Hopefully you will have received this letter by email! We are trialling this system though paper copies of this newsletter are also available in the office.

Welcome back!

As I write this newsletter I cannot believe we are already at the end of the second week! I hope all of you had lovely summer breaks and I know that the children all returned last week looking smart and ready for a new year! Staff have been delighted this week and last with holiday homework that has been created – thank you all for your support with this.

Nut Free School

Here at Alban Wood we are a nut free school so we request that parents do not send children with nut based items in their packed lunches or snacks at playtime. This is to ensure the health and safety of pupils with allergies. In addition to this we request that parents are mindful of this if sending in birthday sweets, cakes, snacks. We will always ask children to eat their treat when they are with their parent rather than before. We thank you for your understanding and support with this important matter.

Clubs at Alban Wood

I am delighted that at the start of our school year there are so many extra-curricular opportunities for our children. As well as so many different sporting opportunities, Art, Farm Club, Dance and Cooking, are all available. As a school, we are working very hard to keep costs low (and, as you know, in some cases free), and we are also keeping records of all club registers to try to ensure access to clubs for all children across a school year. Please can we ask you to support your children to ensure that they commit to their chosen club for a term – this is best for them in relation to the developing of skills, and best for everyone so that places within clubs are all taken up and offered fairly.

With any questions or feedback in relation to clubs, please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Wells for PE or me in relation to any clubs. Thank you!

Safeguarding

Alban Wood Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children: our child protection policy and procedures and safer recruitment practices are rigorously implemented. The three adults in school that are the designated child protection officers are: **myself (Miss Davis), Mrs Webb (INCo) and Miss Turner (Year 5 teacher).** These three adults support all staff and parents with any concerns. A copy of our Child Protection Policy which was reviewed this term is available on our website.

