



ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 12, 2016-2017



Attendance

Attendance continues to improve at Alban Wood, with a whole school percentage now of 96.5%. My wish continues for Spring to soon be properly with us and blow any final winter bugs away!



Thank you to all parents!

Thank you all for coming in this week for parents' week – great to see such a busy week in school. Thank you too for so many congratulations and positive comments shared following the publication of our Ofsted report. We are pleased that this has brought our community together in such a positive way.

On behalf of all staff, thank you to all parents; a message on behalf of all parents, thank you to all staff!

Possible Academisation

The governing body and senior leaders have been researching for a long time now Alban Wood's options in relation to becoming an Academy. Although academisation is not currently in the media as much as it was at one point, there is no reversal to the government's policy that every school should become an Academy by 2020. Therefore, it is important that as a school we are proactive and consider our choices now – leaving things to later could give us fewer and potentially less desirable options. Herts for Learning have, in February 2017, been given permission by the Department for Education to open their own Multi-Academy Trust (MAT): www.hflmat.co.uk

There are a number of potential benefits of becoming a part of the HfL MAT – and, in particular, this MAT's ethos is one in which it would encourage schools like Alban Wood to retain our unique qualities, ensuring autonomy for our leaders, whilst giving us freedom to focus on teaching and learning, with many business parts of running a school supported through the MAT.

Governors have decided, after significant research, to register our initial interest in joining the MAT. From here, we will now plan formal consultations with you all as parents, and our staff, to take on views and share our understanding of the decision-making process. Please do speak to Miss Davis or me, or any of the school's governors, if you have questions, queries or comments at this stage. Thank you!

Nursery: 30 hours provider

Following our recent consultation with parents (survey monkey survey) in relation to the government's introduction of 30 hours of childcare for eligible parents in some Nursery settings, governors have decided that **for Alban Wood, it is not possible to offer this from September 2017**. Interest and eligibility was limited in the surveys we received. Governors have discussed this matter in some detail, with reference to our local community needs; the matter will be discussed again in preparation for September 2018. Please do not hesitate to speak to me with any questions or queries, especially if they relate to a child/family due to begin with us in September 2017. At this time, we will continue with one Nursery morning class, 8.45 – 11.45am.

More dates coming soon!

Summer term begins on 18.4.17 (Tuesday)

Reading at Alban Wood

There has been lots about reading in recent newsletters, with celebration days, events, grand openings, and innovation in classes. Following a presentation to governors last week, we wanted to write to let you know that all of this is having a great impact on our children at Alban Wood. Staff have been pleased to reward many children for their ambition in reading, and we are certain that a love of reading is a culture well established at school – what is more important to take forward in life?! This week we have had pupil progress meetings, where teachers discuss each and every child with us as senior leaders, and, in particular, we have seen excellent progress for children who have been particularly supported in guided reading with developing their understanding of new vocabulary. It is reassuring that our provision is well matched to needs, and we hope that you too have been pleased to hear about your child's progress in reading this week during Parents' week.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Would you like to join our positive, dynamic and committed governing body? An opportunity has arisen for a new parent representative to join us, and we would ask you please to speak with us and complete a nomination form if you are interested. We are particularly interested in ensuring that as a governing body we have skills across a wide range of fields (please let us know your specific skills or interests) and that we represent our community in the broadest sense (male/female, parents of all cultures, languages and religions). Please make a positive difference to our community. Governor day coming soon! Please speak with any of our parent governors for more information: Tracey Hoodless (Callum Y2); Katrina Tullberg (Poppy Y2 and Harley Reception); Mark Munday (Oliver Y5 and Joshua Y2); Mark Ford (Ella-Mae, Y5); Carole Stroud (Harley Y6).

Thank you!



Breakfast Club and After School Club

Just a reminder that if you need to contact the BC and ASC staff after 4pm, it is best to do this directly with Mrs Douglas as you may well be unable to reach us via telephone in the school office. The mobile number for this is: 07956572612

Also, you can email Mrs Douglas directly at any time: extschs@albanwood.herts.sch.uk
Thank you!