



ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 13, 2016-2017



Attendance

The end of Spring term saw many opportunities to celebrate pupil attendance at Alban Wood – certificate and badges for excellent attendance (sorry for the delay in these coming home – will be in book bags tonight!), certificates for improved attendance (lots of these!) and our attendance raffle winners: Thomas (Y5), Maisy (Y2), Daniel (Y2), Sophie (Y2), Evee-Mae (Y4) and Alfie (Y4). Well done to all!



Staffing

I am writing to thank Mrs Sweeting for all of her contributions to Alban Wood. Due to personal reasons, Mrs Sweeting has resigned from her post in school – she will be missed by staff and pupils alike. Known by the whole school, Mrs Sweeting's role in teaching and supporting within classes of all ages has been such an important part of our school, and her commitment is so greatly appreciated. We hope to stay in touch with Mrs Sweeting within our local community, particularly through the Church of the Nazarene. We wish her all the best.

Esafety

I am sorry to say that as a staff we are concerned about difficulties with esafety at home, particularly (but not solely) for our eldest children in school. We continue to ensure that esafety is discussed in every computing session and through our PSHCE curriculum, and will now be making a regular feature here in our newsletter for parents. I cannot stress enough to you that it is illegal and not recommended for children to be using apps that they do not understand and may well misuse: Instagram particularly – see list of apps on the back of this newsletter. Where children are a part of groups and see something inappropriate posted, it then becomes their responsibility to report this (school, the police, the apps/websites themselves) too. On our Facebook page today, we have shared a number of links from the Herts for Learning Summer esafety newsletter which we hope will be helpful to you: a full copy of this newsletter can also be picked up from the school office. Please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Davis or I with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support in this very important matter.



Car Park

We are pleased with the speed humps now installed in our car park, and can already see the impact these are having on slowing vehicles down to ensure the safety of all of our pupils. Thank you for your support.

Dates for the first half of Summer term

Monday 1st May: bank holiday (school closed)

Week beginning 8th May: SATs week (Y6)

18.5.17 Year 6 Kwik Cricket Tournament

22.5.17 Year 5 and Year 6 History Off the Page Victorian Workshop

25.5.17 Spelling challenge

26.5.17 Spelling challenge finals

Parent governor role at Alban Wood

I am pleased to let you know that we have already received one parent nomination for our important, currently vacant parent governor role at Alban Wood. Kamala Samways' (Mum to Alex, Y2 and Maddie, Y1) nomination statement is shown below:

I have previously sat, as Governor, on the finance committee at Alban Wood so am aware of the governor role and how it functions. Recently I moved jobs and find myself once again in the happy position to be able to apply to join the governing body – and to put to good use the extensive training that I received whilst acting as parent governor previously. I have a 2:1 BA (Hons) degree in business management and currently have 2 children at Alban Wood. I work for Herts Mental Health Trust, based in the Strategic Business Unit at St Alban's hospital, where I look after the senior management team. My role involves practice management and business administration and I really feel that the skills I use at work would help to support the governing body at Alban Wood. I am passionate about our children, their education, and their wellbeing and would welcome the opportunity to be involved once again with the fantastic team at Alban Wood.

If other parents are interested in this vital role, please do not hesitate to speak to me or to any of our governors. The closing date for nominations is next Friday, 28th April, with a vote taking place on Friday 5th May. Many thanks!

STEPS behaviour

Our INSET training day on Friday 31st March 2017 was an inspirational day for staff at Alban Wood, focussed on the philosophy behind the decisions we make in order to best support wellbeing and learning behaviour at our school.

STEPS (a behaviour theory now used across Hertfordshire and further afield) is a therapeutic approach to best supporting behaviour for all children, and especially for vulnerable pupils, now and for their futures. Three of our staff have attended intensive professional development and are now STEPs tutors, and all staff have received six hours of training to use within our roles. This term our behaviour policy will be updated and we will write again with specific alterations; this will be discussed at our next parent coffee morning. More information to come soon! Thank you to Miss Davis, Miss Maclean and Mrs Forbes.