



**ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 2, 2017-2018**

**Attendance**

It has been a very positive first few weeks of the Autumn term, and our attendance is **96.6% overall**. Well done all!

It remains incredibly important for us as a senior team to analyse attendance data on a regular basis as well as punctuality. I must remind parents that the school day begins at 8.50am with soft start beginning at 8.40am for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Some pupils find it very unsettling if they are late and they often miss out on important start of the day routines. Please do speak to us if there is any way that we can support your family if early morning routines are tricky. Thank you all.

**Esafety**

We have posted onto our website an esafety newsletter which has been produced by Hertfordshire County Council – hard copies of this are also available from the office.

Please can I remind all parents that the **recommended age for both Snapchat and Instagram is 13 years old**.

**Take One Book Week**

This week was Take One Book Week, a termly week in which children look at one book all week to produce some fantastic writing. Please ask your child which book they used in their learning this week.

**Parent governor role**

We are currently looking for a parent (or grandparent) to join our Governing Body as Katrina Tullberg is no longer able to be a governor. On behalf of parents and governors I would like to thank her for all of her hard work and commitment. If you are interested in this role (or would like to find out more about the role) please do come and speak to me or one of our governors – Carole Stroud, Kamala Samways, Mark Ford, Mark Munday. **It is such an important role!** In particular, we would welcome a parent with a child in our Early Years/Year 1, and/or a parent who can help to represent the ethnic and cultural diversity of our school community.

**Harvest Festival**

Our Harvest Festival will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Pastor Jack will lead an assembly and there will be a special themed lunch. To support local charities, we are collecting for Watford Foodbank who are particularly in need of tins of soup, small jars of coffee, tinned spaghetti and individual sponge puddings. Please bring any donations to the office or display in the hall.

**Just a few dates for this term!**

- \*Parents' week: the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> October
- \*Half term: the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> October
- \*Movie Night – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November
- \*Non School Uniform day – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November – donations for the Christmas fair please!
- \*Secret Santa afternoon – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November – letter to follow soon!
- \*Christmas Fair – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – please let the PTA know if you'd like to support on the day or with the preparation for this excellent event

**Site safety and parking**

As you will know, we now have electric gates which continue to support the safety of all pupils, parents and staff. As it is so important that we are modelling safety for our children, please never use the main road gate for pedestrian access, and always use the pavements when walking around the car park, and on entering/leaving school. Please could I also urge all families to take extra care when parking on The Brow – **please do not park over the crossing area or the yellow zig-zags** as these need to be kept clear to ensure the safety of all. Thank you all!

**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

A huge well done to our newly appointed School Council for running the World's Biggest Coffee morning today; they will include a section in the next newsletter to let you know how much has been raised. Thank you to all of the parents who supported this important cause today.

**Staffing**

At times, we need to say goodbye to members of staff at Alban Wood. This term we say a fond farewell to Mrs Johnson who has worked at Alban Wood for 12 years. Mrs Johnson is leaving us in October to begin a new career and we wish her well with this new role. On behalf of staff and governors, I would like to say an enormous thank you to Mrs Johnson for all that she has contributed. Mrs Johnson leads the Sunshine Room in the afternoon and this role will be lead going forward by Miss McKinney (Nursery Teaching Assistant). A new member of staff will join us soon to continue Mrs Johnson's morning in class support role.

Secondly, Year 1 said goodbye to Mrs Dainton earlier this week. Mrs Dainton will no longer be teaching Year 1 as she has had to leave unexpectedly due to personal reasons. Whilst Mrs Dainton was only with us for a short period of time, she thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Year 1 and has asked me to wish them well for the rest of the year. On behalf of all staff and governors, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Dainton, and to wish her all the very best for the future. A new member of staff will join the Year 1 team very soon.

**INSET day**

Just to remind you, school is closed to pupils tomorrow (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September). This INSET day will be focused on outdoor learning – look out for an update following the day soon!

