



**ALBAN WOOD'S CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER – Issue 1, 2015-2016**

**Alban Wood website**

Please visit our website, [www.albanwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.albanwood.herts.sch.uk) as we now have all of our curriculum information for 2015 -2016 on it. As well as general curriculum guidance there are also mindmaps for each topic. These mindmaps show learning across the curriculum as well as practical ideas for home.

Homework grids are also working really well from Nursery- Y6 and these are also on our website – thank you for all of your positive feedback in relation to these during our parent surveys back in July.

**Topic learning**

Mrs Kirk and I had a look at English and Maths books across the school yesterday and we were delighted to see how well topic learning is going at Alban Wood. Y1 and Y2 had some lovely London themed writing whilst Y3 and Y4 have completed timelines about the Maya civilization. Finally, Y5 and Y6 are busy learning about kings and queens of the past as well as our current queen. We look forward to seeing application of English and Maths skills grow and grow during topic lessons!

**Curriculum Drivers**

To further develop topic learning we, as a staff, created three curriculum drivers last year: **enterprise, community and possibilities**. These three drivers will be at the heart of each topic and are the starting point for teachers when they plan.

**What is Enterprise?** The ability to innovate, create, risk manage and risk take, develop a 'can-do' attitude and a drive to make things happen

**What is Community?** 'A group of interacting people, possibly living in close proximity, and often refers to a group that shares some common values, and is attributed with social cohesion within a shared geographical location.'

**What is Possibilities?** 'A thing that may be chosen or done out of several alternatives'. The idea of 'possibilities' enables 'thinking out of the box', creative and innovative ideas- there is never just one way to do something! A document on our website explains the drivers in more detail and what the drivers look like in each key stage. Our coordinator teams (teacher led teams across the school) have recently written action plans for the academic year and all plan to develop the use of our drivers this year – please look out for more information on our drivers!

**Study guides – Y5/Y6**

With recent changes to the curriculum, and changes to the Y2 and Y6 SATs testing for this year, a number of companies are making new study books, which are often helpful to support children's learning at home. We think the English and Maths little study guides are very well created, and we are able to put in an order for these for as many parents as would like to purchase them. They are £2 each and appropriate for children in Years 5 and 6. Mrs Martin has one copy of each in the school office if you would like to see these before you decide. Please ensure money is given to the office by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October if you would like to order a copy.

**Coming soon – newsletters...**

In addition to our fortnightly newsletter and the termly curriculum newsletter, this year we plan to involve pupils in writing newsletters. Our Eco and School Councils along with the prefects will now write a termly newsletter to update you on their work and ideas for future projects. Pupils will also write a termly Alban Wood Community Farm newsletter. These letters will provide our pupils with the opportunity to write for a real purpose – please do look out for these!

**Take One Book Week**

This week is Take One Book week and follows on from the success of last year when we held our first ever Take One Book Week. This week children in all classes will use one picture book in their English lessons. Please do ask your child to tell you about their class book (or they may have already done so!)

**To celebrate the week we would like to hold a competition.**

Children are invited to use their creative skills to design a front cover for a well-known book, and if your child is in Key Stage Two (Year 3 – Year 6) we would also like them to create the blurb for the book. Teachers have selected the book for children to create the front cover for and when I explained the competition in assembly this morning lots and lots of children were very keen to take part!

Year group	Book
Nursery and Reception	Handa's Surprise The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Year 1	Katie in London
Year 2	Burglar Bill Cops and Robbers
Year 3	Bill's New Frock Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs
Year 4	Spy Dog
Year 5	Wolves in the Walls
Year 6	The Arrival

Please support your child to enter this competition – entries on A4 paper please. Children in KS2 will need to enter a blurb and a front cover – this can be on A3 paper or two sides or A4. Please ensure your child puts their name on their entry so that we can identify the winner! **There will be a display of the entries in the library to enable us to celebrate all of the excellent ideas and prizes will be awarded in assembly on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Please support your child to complete their entry by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Diary date**

Anti-bullying week is the week beginning **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. During this week our there will be a **non-school uniform day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November** – please look out for a letter coming home from school council soon!