



ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 20, 2015-2016

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). Attendance for last week was 96.1% which was a positive start to term and is moving towards our whole school target of 96.5%. **Well done to Year 5 as their attendance last week was 98.4% - they were delighted with their class certificate this morning!**

Thank you for your understanding.

Security of our school site

Please can we ask you to help us in keeping both the pedestrian and car park gates closed during school hours – 8.45am – 3.15pm. This is crucial for the safety of all of our children – thank you for your support in closing gates behind you as you enter and leave the school premises. In addition to this please can I remind you **that dogs are not permitted on the school site.**

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. This half term, I will be running, with the class teachers, transition workshops for parents with children in Year 3 (Tuesday 4th October, 9am) and with children in Year 1 (Wednesday 28th September, 9am). **Mrs Gainfort will also be running a Phonics workshop for Reception and Year 1 parents on Wednesday 28th September at 2.30pm.** We hope you can join us!

Roald Dahl Day

Roald Dahl Day earlier this week was a fantastic success. Children and staff all looked fantastic in their outfits with £134 being raised for Roald Dahl's Children's Charity – thank you all of the donations and for the support you've given your children in creating their outfits. A great day had by all!

Electronic Newsletter

We are continually thinking of ways to ensure communication is good here at Alban Wood. We would like to trial an electronic newsletter system later this term. If the office do not have an up to date email address for you please let us know.

Just a few dates for this term!

- Individual and family photographs: Wednesday 21st September
- Take One Book Week: the week beginning 26th September
- Parents' week: the week beginning 3rd October
- Half term: the week beginning 24th October
- Spelling challenge (more information to follow soon): Friday 21st October

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.

Surveys

Thank you to all of the families who completed a parent survey or an After School Club survey – if you have not yet completed an After School Club survey this survey hasn't closed just yet... www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/awASC2016
We have analysed pupil, parent, staff and governor surveys and a letter summarising this will come home next week. Year 5 will also have the opportunity to select £20 worth of lunchtime resources next week as they were the class with the greatest number of parent surveys.

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!

Alban Wood Community Farm

Week by week the number of farm experts is growing and children take this responsibility very seriously. When you are next in school please have a look at the farm display in the hall as it is updated regularly with the progress of our farm. This week we welcomed Peter Rabbit, a new giant rabbit, to our farm. If you have not yet signed up for the weekend farm rota and would like to please speak to myself or Mrs Forbes.

PTA meeting

The PTA would like to hold their first meeting of this academic year on Monday 26th September, after school. All are welcome at this meeting as we would love to see the PTA continue to grow and grow.