



ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 10, 2016-2017



Attendance

Following mystery attendance week before half term, afternoon teas have been enjoyed this Tuesday and Wednesday by 165 children across the school – all of whom were at school every day and on time for mystery attendance week! Well done! Another week coming soon, so please keep up these efforts!

Attendance this week has been excellent (two days with no pupils off at all from Reception – Year 6!), which is excellent as we hope our whole school percentage – now **96.2%** - to rise once more, following illnesses before half term. Hopefully Spring is in the air!

Our attendance improvement officer visited school this week and was pleased to see the effective systems that we have in place for praising and improving attendance as a school.



Nursery: 30 hour free childcare

As many of you may have seen from the media, for eligible families, some schools and private Nurseries will be offering 30 hours free childcare from September 2017. We would like to consult with our parent community in relation to this, and therefore we have designed a short survey (no more than 5 minutes!) to be found at this web address:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AWnurseryhours>

Please complete if you possibly can! Thank you!

Other feedback...

We aim to always be responsive in relation to feedback we receive from you as parents. Positives shared at recent events include our **facebook page, the community farm, the academic competitions and our clubs** (ever widening, yet of high quality and value for money). Thank you!

In relation to pupil learning, a few parents have asked for clarification in relation to **marking in books**. Especially in writing books, teachers use highlighters to show particularly excellent parts of a piece (pink – tickled pink!), and parts that could be edited or improved (green – green for growth). Marking comments are, as well as being positive, almost always linked to the particular learning for that day (success criteria shown at the top); only some spellings may be highlighted... Our children are now very well trained to use their feedback, returning to marking and whatever the teacher has asked them to do. Please do ask to see your children's books -you are always welcome! Letters are coming home this week and next week in relation to your children's next targets in learning...

Just a few dates for this term!

* **Thursday 2nd March** – World Book Day. Letter coming home today – please join us for buddy reading sessions!

* **Week beginning 20th March** - Parents' week

PLEASE NOTE ONE IMPORTANT CHANGE:

Friday 31st March INSET day (school finishing on Thursday 30th at 2pm); there will therefore be no INSET day on Monday 5th June - school beginning on this day.

Take One Book week

Thank you to all parents who came in to visit your children's classes on the Monday before half term for Take One Book week. There was a lovely feel in school with such positive chatter in every room – from sharing books, to collaborative carousel activities, and great Maths and reading links. A number of parents joined me for coffee after this, and we discussed what parents have been pleased to note with reading at Alban Wood, as well as their ideas and suggestions.

Pleased to note:

- * Children's love of reading!
- * Pupil confidence in reading
- * School systems for changing books and flexibility with this
- * New books which have been recently purchased – engaging, fun, gruesome!
- * The encouragement the school/staff place on daily reading at home
- * Things specifically today: dual language books shared, thought-provoking images in Y5/Y6, the learning behaviour and engagement of children across the school

Ideas:

- * We love the reading hut – can't wait to see it in use!
- * Continuation of parents being invited in to events like this – we will!
- * Reading clubs – great idea! Coming soon!



Spelling challenge

Congratulations to all the spelling finalists, and in particular a big well done to:

Year 2: Ruby, Yasmin and Callum M

Year 3/4: Demba, Tara and Sarah K

Year 5/6: Ricardo, Alfie F, Nathan H, Ishaal.

Please keep up your excellent efforts to support at home with our academic competitions – Maths coming next!



Reading!

Our reading hut is almost ready and will be opened next week on Thursday 2nd March for World Book Day! Will your child have a VIP ticket?! See a letter coming home in book bags today.

Car Park

Two reminders please: firstly, the disabled bays **MUST** be only used legitimately; secondly, please take care when parking and using our car park if picking up from clubs – there remain many pupils on site at this time. Thank you.