



ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 11, 2016-2017



Attendance

What an excellent few weeks for attendance at Alban Wood! Two weeks ago our attendance rose to 96.3%, last week our attendance rose again to 96.4% and we are hoping the same for this week! At the time of writing, we have had two days with no children absent at all which is great. Let's hope Spring will soon be properly with us and blow any final winter bugs away!



Car Park

Over recent weeks, leaders and staff at Alban Wood have become increasingly concerned about our car park, and I am writing to ask parents, children and staff to all work together to ensure children's safety – the priority for all of us. I spoke with children about this in assemblies this week (Monday and Friday) and would request your support in the following ways:

- Children to always enter and leave the school premises walking on the pedestrian footpaths (and never through or across the road)
- Children to dismount from bicycles or scooters at the school gates, and then walk their bicycle/scooter to the bike shed to store it safely (again, never on or across the road)
- Children and parents – as has always been the case – to go to the main reception/office at any times other than the normal starts of day in the playground
- Parents to please close car park gates behind them if driving in to our car park at times other than the starts/ends of day when parking here is not possible
- Parents to please drive slowly and carefully at all times – **this is so important.**

Our governing body, together with Caroline Grange are investigating changes which would support us all – for example, speed humps and electronic gates – but we need to ask everybody to adhere to the above in the meantime. Thank you for your support!

Just a few dates for this term!

* **School council Houses of Parliament trip – Monday 13th March 2017**

* **PTA Easter event – Friday 17th March.** See letter which came home this week!

* **Week beginning 20th March** - Parents' week. Sign up sheets will be up in classrooms by Monday 13th March. Just a reminder that school will close at 2pm on Tuesday 21st. We look forward to welcoming parents in to school throughout the week!

* **Friday 24th March** – Movie night! Letters coming out soon!

* **Tuesday 28th March** - Class photographs.

* **Wednesday 29th March** – Maths academic challenge competitions;

Thursday 30th March – the finals!

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.

Ofsted – thank you!

I wanted to write to you all to reiterate our **thanks to you as parents** for your great support of Alban Wood during our Ofsted inspection on 2nd and 3rd March. As you will be aware, we must be very patient waiting for our report, both the detail that it will contain and the judgements made – which could be up to 24 working days from the end of the inspection. But, what we do know is that the **parent community** came together brilliantly to support our school, for which we are very grateful. And, even more importantly, **our pupils were an absolute credit to all of you and to our school and its values** – consistently excellent learning behaviour for all, thank you!



World Book Day!

What a success World Book Day was on Thursday! It was fantastic to see so many parents in school for buddy reading, and the VIP tickets for the reading hut were particularly special! Both older children and younger children loved being together, and the high profile created for enjoyment of reading was commented on in a very positive way by the Ofsted team. We look forward to the next reading event (coming soon!); watch this space for more exciting happenings in the reading hut too...

Trips and special workshops at Alban Wood

It has been a busy week for trips at Alban Wood, with Heartwood Forest for Years 3 and 4 yesterday and London for Years 5 and 6 on Monday. I thought therefore that it would be a good time to write to you all to explain why we need to ask for contributions for such visits and workshops, and to use Year 5 and 6 as an example so that I can explain the way in which we subsidise this as a school.

London costings:

Travel (including coach and tube) - £513.25

(sadly travel for children by tube in London is not free when part of a school group)

Cable car - £61

HMS Belfast - £43.60

We are very grateful to all the parents who supported us with cars to Stanmore - this made the trip affordable, thank you! The total cost worked out as £10.83 per child, with parents contributing £10.

Next term (**22nd May**), the Y5/Y6 children are having a special **Victorian workshop** in school (very exciting, letter coming soon!) which we will be asking a £5 contribution for per child. This is more heavily subsidised by us as we work very hard to try to keep costs down for in-school workshops. In total, therefore we will have funded over £300 for these two events, and this is the approximate amount that we offer for all year groups.

Thank you, as always, for your support and contributions; we hope that this clarification is helpful.