



ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 3, 2016-2017

Attendance

Congratulations to Year 1 as their attendance last week was 98.4%. Well done to all, as attendance so far this term is meeting our overall target of 96.5% - 97.3% so far. This has such an excellent impact on all aspects of children's enjoyment of school life.

Parents' week

Parents' week earlier this term was incredibly positive and almost all meetings have taken place. **If you have not yet had a chance to meet with your child's class teacher please do pop into the office to make an appointment. As with every parents' week we do strive for 100% attendance each term.** Thank you all.

Parent Workshops

The three parent workshops this half term have been very well attended – thank you all! If you were not able to attend one of these meetings please do look on our website as slides from the meetings have been uploaded. **We are just beginning to plan workshops for next term and would like your thoughts. Please complete the slip below with any suggestions.**

School lunches, packed lunches

Just a reminder that if your child has a school packed lunch, it is important to consider which drink they have, as well as the balance of foods they have to eat. If you wish for them to have a carton of squash or juice, that is absolutely fine – but fruit shoots do contain a lot of sugar, so we would just ask you to perhaps consider having this only once a week rather than more regularly. Water is always available for all children. If your child has a school dinner, it shouldn't be necessary for you to provide them with a drink at all – similarly, water is provided each day, and their meal is sufficient (main and dessert) without anything additional needed. Please do not hesitate to speak to me or your child's class teacher with any queries.

Playtime snacks

Just to remind you, children in Key Stage Two can bring a snack in for playtime. This snack needs to be a healthy option – fruit ideally. Please do not send in chocolate bars or crisps as these will not give children the energy that they need in the morning. To support with snacks, Mrs Overy will trial a school tuck shop after half term – more information to follow!

Just a few dates for this term!

The second half of autumn term is always busy for our PTA in organising both our autumn disco and Christmas Fair. Dates for your diary are as follows:

* **Autumn Disco – Friday 4th November** – look out for a letter coming home this week

* **Christmas Fair and Christmas hat and jumper day – Friday 16th December**, after school

A message from the office...

We know that the start and end of the day can be very busy in the office and we thank parents for your patience. To support the office, please do use the post box for any letter slips, money and other notes for school. **To ensure that money is paid into the correct account please use the envelopes provided.** Thank you all.

Parent workshops and snow

Next term it would be good to have parent workshops linked to: _____

I am able to help with snow clearing (see message on reverse)

My contact details are: Name: _____ Name of child: _____

Telephone number: _____

Alban Wood Car Park and surrounding area
A reminder please that it is **not possible to drive into or park in our car park between 8.45 – 9.15am and 2.45 – 3.15pm each day – this is for the safety of all of our children.**

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!

Harvest

Thank you for all of the generous donations towards our harvest appeal earlier this month. We managed to donate over 90kgs of food and Watford Food Bank sent a certificate into school last week thanking us for our generosity. Thank you to too to Pastor Erica for sharing the importance of Harvest with us all and to the children for their uplifting singing during our Harvest assembly.

Sporting Success!

Miss Wells is very busy preparing for all of the football fixtures for this term and we wish our football team well in all of these matches. **Good luck to our Year 4 Tri Golf team who will complete in the Tri Golf finals on Thursday!**

Spelling Challenge

Our first spelling challenge of the year takes place on Thursday 20th with the final on Friday 21st. Thank you for all of the support you have given to your child in preparation for this exciting event. Good luck all!

Alban Wood Community Farm and outdoor learning

As you may be aware, last week we welcomed three pygmy goats to our farm. Matilda, Charlie and Billy have all settled in well and are enjoying life up at the farm! **If you would like to be on the rota next term to support with caring for our animals over weekend and holiday periods please let us know.**

You may have noticed that we have had the area behind our bike shed cleared and new fences put up. This is because one of our school priority areas this year is to embed Alban Wood as an area of excellence within outdoor learning. **As a result, our eco council will be busy next half term designing the area ready for a new pond and outdoor reading hut. Look out for more information coming next half term!**

Please turn over for information regarding snow procedures...



Severe Weather: reminder of procedures

It is approaching that time of year again!

In the event of severe weather, we will make the best decision possible based on current weather and the forecast as early as possible in the morning. Information will then be sent to you in the following ways:

- * This notification will be immediately sent to Hertfordshire, who will post whether the school is open or closed on their website: www.hertsdirect.org
- * Announcements will also be made on Three Counties Radio.
- * We will text all parents with information stating whether we are open or closed (another reason to make sure we have your up to date mobile number details).
- * We will add a post to our school Facebook page and website.

We will always endeavour to keep the school open if at all possible, but will first need to take into account Health and Safety (particularly our ability to clear ice from the entrance to the school and in the playgrounds), and staffing numbers (ensuring that enough staff can make the journey in to school). You can help us with this in two ways. Firstly, please do not call the school office to check whether we are open unless absolutely necessary, instead using the above ways to find out information: this is because staff are likely to be involved in preparing the school for the day (cover arrangements, clearing snow etc) and may be unable to answer the phones. Secondly, if there are parents who live locally that may be able to help with clearing snow early in the morning, then that would be very much appreciated – thank you! If you are able to help with this please complete the slip on the first side of the newsletter.

