



ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 6, 2016-2017

Attendance

We are very pleased that our attendance for this term is **97.0%**, above the National and a significant improvement as a school on attendance data for last year. We appreciate your support very much in achieving this figure; we are confident that such positive attendance will have a great impact on children’s learning and most importantly their enjoyment of all parts of school life. Thank you!

Nursery class

Governors and Alban Wood leaders and staff have been in discussion this term in relation to our Nursery pupil numbers, and we have now taken the decision to run just a morning Nursery from January 2017 (8.45 – 11.45am). All parents are happy with this movement, particularly as it will ensure a vibrant, busy and exciting Nursery class with lots of opportunities for maximising social interaction and play. Thank you to all for your support during this process.

Christmas performances

Where to begin with my thanks?! We have been treated to such polished, professional, creative and festive performances led by Early Years (Nativity), KS1 (Family assembly) and the KS2 Carol concert. Everything from speaking, acting, singing, dancing, poetry, and art work displayed – and most importantly, the children have enjoyed themselves so much! Thank you to all parents for providing us with a packed hall/church for all – it has been wonderful to have you with us!

We look forward to the **Christmas Fair** today: thank you to the PTA for their incredibly hard work in preparation. It promises to be a great event!

Maths challenge

Many congratulations to the all of finalists who took part in the mental maths final today; winners will be announced and celebrated in assembly on Monday.

Thank you to all of the children for their hard work and ambition, and to parents too for your support. These skills and speed are essential for children’s Maths, now, at secondary school and for their future.

Just a few dates for this term and next!

- *Monday 19th December – Christmas Lunch
- *Tuesday 20th December – Christmas parties
- *Wednesday 21st December, 2pm – End of autumn term
- *Thursday 5th and Friday 6th January – INSET days (school closed)
- *Monday 9th January – Spring term begins for children
- *Week beginning 30th January – Take One Book Week
- *Thursday 9th February – Spelling Competition
- *Friday 10th February – Spelling competition final

TWO NEW EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES BEGIN:

- * Lego club for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
- * A fantastic dance opportunity with Parmiters for Years 3 - 6



We wish you a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
We look forward to all the exciting opportunities that the new year will bring.

Thank you!

What a wonderful time of year to return to Alban Wood following my maternity leave. May I take this opportunity to thank **Miss Davis very much for her skilled and committed leadership during this period** – I am most appreciative. Thanks too to Mrs Webb, Miss Wells and all the staff: I have been excited to see all sorts of developments over the last six months including art work for farm week (amazing!), the pond, the new academic competitions and inspiring and creative learning in pupil books across all subjects. Thank you to the whole Alban Wood community for your support – I am very pleased to be back!

Governor news

We welcome a new parent governor to our governing body: many thanks to Miss Katrina Tullberg (parent to Poppy in Y2 and Harley in Reception), who has begun in this very important role.

We would like to extend our thanks to Alban Wood **farm experts**, who recently attended our Governing Body committee meeting to explain their important roles and rapidly developing knowledge and understanding. They spoke passionately and informatively – thank you!



Year 1 staffing

Firstly we extend our thanks to Mrs Thompson for her commitment to Alban Wood – we wish her all the very best for the future. Please stay in touch!

We are pleased to let you all know that we have appointed a class teacher for Year 1 to join our staff team at Alban Wood from January 2016. Miss Christakos is joining us from New South Wales in Australia, which is very exciting for us all. Miss Christakos is joining us from Monday 23rd January 2017 (when her visa begins). This means that there are two weeks (the weeks beginning 9th and 16th January) where Mrs Rose and Miss Davis will teach the class.

Reading awards

Each half term of the year, we celebrate the excellent reading children have enjoyed at home. This half term we are making a change to the previous reading challenges (for KS2), as we want to ensure that children are rewarded for their love of reading and understanding of books – not just how many books they have whizzed through! Rewards are designed by the class teachers within each class, and, each half term there will be one special Bronze, Silver and Gold award for ambition in reading, with the Gold award winner receiving a book to take home. Thank you, as ever, for your fantastic support for reading at home!

