



ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 7, 2016-2017

Love of Reading!

There is nothing more important to gain from your child's time at primary school than a love of reading! We are always promoting this in as many ways as we can think of, and this term our outdoor reading hut will be built and launched! Very exciting plans coming soon.... One of the ways that we are purchasing books for this hut is through the Book Trust which creates lists in all sorts of ways which we thought might be useful to you as parents too.

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/booklists/> - booklists for everything

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/booklists/241/> - the top 100 books!

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/bookfinder/> - a search tool which narrows books down for children by age and genre.

We hope these are useful!



INSET Staff Training Days

I always like to write to parents to explain a little about our professional learning during INSET days, which are invaluable opportunities for us to think in innovative ways for the term ahead! We are pleased that the new Clevertouch interactive whiteboards (currently in three classrooms) are going to be rolled out further this term and on Thursday we learned much more about the many ways these can be used to full advantage to motivate and support children's visual and auditory learning. We also focussed on spelling and reading – for both, generating new and engaging ways of teaching and learning – you will see more both in this newsletter and in the coming weeks! Thank you to all staff for their positivity in taking on new ideas with such enthusiasm and commitment.



Extra-curricular activities

As ever in the first week of term, this will be a busy week for club organisation with many letters coming home for you. As well as many fantastic clubs continuing, we have two new clubs beginning – Lego for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (we are pleased to be offering a different opportunity for our youngest children); and Dance, linked with Parmiters and a great performance opportunity at the Watford Palace Theatre for KS2. Thank you for your support for clubs – if reply slips and money could come in promptly that would be much appreciated. Please do not hesitate to speak to us with any questions or concerns – Miss Wells for sports clubs, and Mrs Kirk/Miss Davis for all.

Just a few dates for this term!

*Week beginning 6th February – Take One Book Week

Parents are very welcome to join us in school on Monday 6th February from 9 – 9.30am, in classrooms, followed by informal coffee in the Creative Arts room.

*Thursday 9th February – Spelling Competition

*Friday 10th February – Spelling competition final

* Week beginning 13th February – Half Term

* Week beginning 20th March - Parents' week

Christmas Fair

Although it seems a long time ago, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for such a fantastic Fair – the photographs shared on facebook demonstrate just what a busy, successful, and happy community fair it was! £1300 was raised which is excellent. This will pay for our new pond cover, which is coming soon; this Friday artists from across the school showing real potential will be preparing the design with Miss Turner. We eagerly await the next stage and thank you again to the PTA.

Asda Green Token Scheme

Just before Christmas, Alban Wood won! Thank you to all of you for putting in your tokens; a cheque will be arriving for us soon in school. This will be added to the PTA fund account, which as written above is going to pay for our new pond cover – great news! Thank you to the PTA for organising this.

MSA position

We are advertising for a new midday meals supervisor to begin at Alban Wood from February half term (or as soon as possible). Members of our parent and school community are of course very welcome to apply. Please see www.teachinherts.com for details of the advert and position, or speak to Mrs Martin in the office if you would like a printed copy (or support in locating the electronic version). This position is flexible in hours – between 5 and 10 per week over lunchtimes – and may support a parent who is now looking to return to work. I am happy to speak to anybody who is interested if I can help with questions or queries... Thank you!

Spelling: Years 1 - 6

Whenever there is a quiet moment at home, just a reminder that you can always be helping your child with spellings! Teachers will ensure this term that key spelling word lists are inserted within homework books, and additional practise will be valued greatly by us. We will particularly be supporting children to ensure that they edit their writing for these known spellings – the lists will also be readily available to them at their tables in the classrooms. Children can learn spellings by: physically practising writing words (with perfect handwriting!); mnemonics such as Big Elephants Can't Always Use Small Exits! (because); building new words by adding different endings and beginnings (for example, help can become helpful, unhelpful, helping etc). Please speak to your child's class teacher for other ideas or support or questions.