



ALBAN WOOD NEWSLETTER – Issue 8, 2016-2017



Attendance

Although there are unfortunately one or two bugs at Alban Wood at the moment (often the case for January!), our school attendance remains overall at **97.0%** which is great news – well done to all! Prizes have been arriving in the last two weeks for the attendance raffle winners, drawn in December – all of whom achieved our school target of 96.5% during Autumn 2. Well done to: Cameron (Y1), Kayleigh (Y5), David S (Y3), David M (Y4) and Emily (Y5). We hope you enjoy your Amazon prizes!

Many more rewards to come this half term – mystery attendance week coming soon, class certificates weekly and of course the half termly raffle once again in February. The children's dedication to coming to school every day that they possibly can is admirable – thank you!



Additional provision and interventions for this term

As always at the beginning of term, the class teachers, Mrs Webb, Miss Davis and I have been busy planning additional interventions to provide further support to children in their learning. Just to reassure you as parents that it is likely that almost all children will be invited to attend an additional intervention in one subject or other at some point in the week! This is because it is our commitment to provide further support to all children – and to challenge them too! Some interventions are continuing from last term, but many new groups have also begun based on teachers' insights from assessment week last term. If you have any questions at all in relation to your child's timetable or our support, please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher. We are very fortunate as a school to be able to offer so much – and we are confident in the impact that the additional groups have to support children's learning, enjoyment and confidence. Thank you for your support with home learning too.

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

PLEASE NOTE ONE IMPORTANT CHANGE:

Friday 31st March will now be an INSET day (school finishing on Thursday 30th at 2pm); there will therefore now be no INSET day on Monday 5th June - school beginning on this day. Our apologies for needing to make this change.

Social media and esafety

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you all as parents of the great importance of regularly checking how your children are using computers, laptops, tablets, phones or any other electronic equipment at home. As a school, we take very seriously our responsibility to educate children in relation to keeping safe online – and this is a part of every computing lesson, as well as linked to the PSHCE curriculum too. That said, we also want to ensure that using computing equipment is a great positive of today's world – our children are so lucky to be able to learn, play and communicate in so many different, exciting ways!

However, it is coming to our attention more and more as a school that some of our children are using sites that we would not recommend are appropriate for their ages. Facebook is illegal to use for children under 13; uploading videos to you tube is similarly not recommended even with parental involvement; I am aware of some inappropriate use of Instagram (for example, bad language and/or unkindness towards children being posted); and similarly I have concerns for other sites being used for 'instant chat'. Of course, it is entirely your parental choice how you support your children to use technology, but it is important for us to make you aware that there may be things taking place that you are unaware of. If any specific concerns come to our attention, we will always endeavour to contact you, but it is difficult for us to manage when it relates entirely to things outside of school.

Please find some information printed overleaf which may be helpful to you; further resources can also be found on our school website (navigate to parents, then to family learning, then esafety).

Of course, much of this is relevant mainly to our oldest children at Alban Wood; that said, I felt it important to write to you all as a community.

Please let's all work together to ensure that our children are consistently kind, sensible and safe – this is a shared responsibility.

Many thanks for your understanding and support. Please do not hesitate to speak to any of the class teachers, or senior leaders in school, in relation to any questions, comments or concerns that you have.