



Governors Newsletter October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following a second advertisement for a Co-Head to work with Mrs Goddard, once again, we received a large number of excellent applications for the position. The very rigorous interviews were held on 25th September at the school. At the end of an intense day for both us and the shortlisted candidates, I am delighted to be able to inform you that this time, we were able to appoint an excellent Co-Head who really understands our school. The decision of the interviewing panel, was unanimous and was ratified at a Full Governing Body Meeting following the interviews. Our new Co-Head will be Gilly Stray and she will join our staff team on 1st January 2018. The delay in informing you of this appointment is due to Mrs Stray's current school needing to inform their parents of her resignation.

Mrs Goddard and Mrs Stray will split the week between them with an overlap session, probably on Wednesdays when both Heads will be in school. This will facilitate communications and ensure that the school's ethos is consistent. Mrs Stray brings additional skills and expertise in areas which will enable our school to continue to grow and develop into the future. During the first week of the Spring Term, both Mrs Goddard and Mrs Stray will be in school all week, giving you the opportunity to meet the new team. I do hope you will all give Mrs Stray a warm, Alban City, welcome to our school.

A belated, warm welcome to our new teachers and teaching assistants. It was heart-warming to walk around the school in September and see how quickly the children have settled into their new classes and how the new staff quickly got to know their children. There is such a lovely atmosphere of hard work, mutual respect and above all fun. We are so lucky to have such dedicated staff and I think that sometimes it is easy to forget just how much of their own time they give to the school above and beyond that which is expected of them. To illustrate this point, I have pasted below some statements from the DfE standards website for the school year 2016/17

“Phonics by school characteristics

The percentage of pupils who met the expected standard in local authority maintained mainstream schools was 82% in 2017. More pupils meet the expected standard in free schools (86%) than in other types of school, although the number of free schools (151) is much smaller.”

At ACS 95% of pupils met the expected standard in phonics!

“Key stage 1 by school characteristics

More pupils meet the expected standard in free schools in all subjects than in other types of school, although the number of eligible free schools (123) is much smaller.

Nationally: Reading 76%, Writing 68%, Maths 75%”

At ACS: Reading 94%, Writing 87%, Maths 81% !

Following a Standards visit with a School Improvement Partner at Alban City, in September, where our results were compared to both national and Hertfordshire results, I can assure you that the children in our school are having an outstanding educational experience. A real testament to the quality of teaching and learning in the school and to your active participation as parents.

Have a wonderful half term!

Linda Crawley

Chair of Governors MBE