Welcome to a new school year. I hope you had an enjoyable summer break and the start to the new term has gone smoothly. A very warm welcome to all the families and members of staff who have joined us. I hope you are already feeling part of our wonderful school community. The children have really impressed me by how quickly they have settled straight into the school routines and expectations, and I wish everyone a very successful year to come.

Instrumental lessons
There are currently vacancies for violin/viola lessons. If you are interested please contact Debbie Diamond at imi.diamond@gmail.com. Trial lessons are available and Debbie has a good supply of instruments for hire at extremely affordable rates.

Climbing frame after school
Please do not allow your child to use the climbing frame after school. The equipment could become overcrowded and unsafe, and staff are not there to supervise the children.

Oat milk offer
Our school milk provider does not supply a plant based alternative, but one of our parents works for Oatly and has secured a 25% discount code for our school for anyone who would like to purchase 250ml cartons of the drink. It does not need to be refrigerated unless it is opened, so children could bring it to school in their bags and drink it at break time. The coupon is valid until 8th November and works for both "one off purchases" and "subscribe & save" options (on the latter, the discount would only apply for the first month of course). Here is the link https://amzn.to/4nizRuj If you have any questions, please contact Lucy on Lucy.Hopkins@oatly.com. Please understand that we are not endorsing this product as a school and other brands are also available!

Parent information meeting about Sport
We are holding a short meeting on 19th September at 8.50am in the theatre to give parents an opportunity to meet our new sports coach, Miss Summers, and share information about sports teams and fixtures for the coming year.

Coats
Please remember that the children go outside to play in all but extreme weather, so they need a coat in school every day in case it is cold or wet.

Attendance and punctuality
At the start of a new school year, a reminder that it is vital for your child to attend school every day that they are well enough to do so if they are to make good progress in their education. Sometimes it can be tricky to know if they are well enough for school or not, so you may find this NHS guidance helpful. Please call or email the office if your child is not coming to school so that we know where they are. Holidays in term time will not be authorised and may lead to a fine in certain circumstances. If you need to apply for a leave of absence for exceptional circumstances, there is a form on our website that you can use. If your child has a medical appointment during school hours, please bring them to school either before or afterwards if possible. If you arrive at school after 8.50am, please come to the main office because the playground gate will be closed.

Educational Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP)
Sirpa, our EMHP, will be in school every Friday again this year and is available to provide guidance for parents to know how to support their child's emotional health and wellbeing. She can help with issues such as anxiety and behaviour but can also signpost to other NHS services. If you would like to book an appointment with her, please speak to Mrs Carter who is our Mental Health Lead.

Diary dates for this term are below. There are more dates to come for sports fixtures, so I will update the list in each newsletter. Diary dates are also published on our website.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stray

Diary dates Autumn term 2025

3rd September	INSET day
4th September	First day of term
12th September	Year 5 swimming starts
15th September	Clubs start
19th September	PE and Sport meeting for parents 8.50am in the theatre
22nd September	Digital Discovery Week
26th September	Phonics and Reading meeting for parents 8.50am in the theatre
26th September	European Day of Languages
3rd October	Harvest Festival collection for Food Bank
6th October	Flu vaccinations
8th October	Year 6 health screening
8th October	Individual photos
13th October	NSPCC assembly
15th October	Year 2 trip to Mountfitchet Castle
16th October	Year 4 trip to British Museum
20th October	Year 6 Bikeability training week
21st October	NSPCC workshops for Years 2 and 6

27th October	**Half term week**
3rd November	**INSET day - school closed to pupils**
10th November	Anti-bullying Week
13th November	Parents Evening 3:40-7:00pm
14th November	Magenta sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
14th November	Flu vaccinations catch up
16th November	Choir performance at St Albans Christmas Cracker event
18th November	Parents Evening 3:40-7:00pm
21st November	Amethyst sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
21st November	Year 6 Debating workshop
28th November	Sage sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
2nd December	Advent Service rehearsal 1 - 2.30pm for Year 6 readers
3rd December	Schools Advent Service in Cathedral for some Year 6 children
5th December	Forest sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
8th December	Reception health screening for Sept-Feb born children
9th December	Orchestra concert in the hall 9.00am
10th December	Year 1 performance in the theatre at 9:15am
12th December	Reception performance in the theatre at 9:15am
15th December	Year 3 concert 3pm in the theatre
16th December	Pantomime at the Alban Arena 10:30am
17th December	Christmas Lunch
19th December	Year 2 concert in the theatre at 9:00am
19th December	**End of term 1.30pm**

Sports Fixtures

25th September	Cross Country at Colney Heath
7th October	Girls football v Cunningham Hill
16th October	Cross Country at Fleetville
6th November	Cross Country at Wheatfields
14th November	Year 5 football tournament 1-3pm at St Margaret's School, Bushey