Alban City School
Happiness, well-being, high achievement

7 Hatfield Road
St Albans
AL1 3RR
Telephone: 01727 860304
admin@albancityschool.herts.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs G. Stray

26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been very busy and exciting in school with lots of computing workshops for Digital Innovation Week. Year 1 and 2 enjoyed Code Ninjas, Year 3 and 4 learnt about programming with EduThing, Year 5 had great fun with 3D Printing and Year 6 enjoyed Lego Programming with Beyond Blocks. Thank you to Mr Bushell for sourcing some grants and organising the week, and to the PTA for their support towards the costs too. Today is European Day of Languages so we have been learning about some of the different languages that are spoken by our pupils and Mrs Collins has visited classes to read a story in Spanish.

Green Flag Award
We are delighted to have been awarded the Green Flag for another year in recognition of the work we do towards sustainability. Congratulations and thank you to last year's Eco Committee for their hard work.

Smartphone Free School
As you know, we are a smartphone free school and we support the Smartphone Free Childhood initiative. We would therefore kindly ask for your support in modelling this to our children by not using your smartphone while you are in the school building for soft start or when you collect your child at the end of the day.

Facebook reviews
It is that time of year when prospective parents are considering which school they would like for their Reception age child. We really need to attract more families to our school to maintain our pupil numbers, so we would be very grateful for any positive reviews on Facebook or other social media and networks that you belong to. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to come to one of our tours and spread the word that Alban City is a great school!

Attendance
One of the strengths of our school is that it is so diverse and we try very hard to foster an environment that values and celebrates cultural and religious diversity. We understand that parents may want to celebrate key religious festivals with their children and may request absence for these special occasions. This is Hertfordshire's guidance for schools and parents:

- Headteachers should authorise absence only for the specified date(s) exclusively set aside for religious observance by the religious body to which the parents/carers belong
- If you have doubts, seek advice from the religious body about whether this is the case
- Additional days taken on either side of the day explicitly set aside for observance would not be authorised on the grounds of religious observance
- Absence taken on a school day for religious observance, for example during a festival, falling at a weekend, or in a school holiday, would not be authorised
- Schools may authorise no more than one day in any term for an individual occasion of religious observance and no more than three days in any academic year.
- Parents should be asked to give the school as much notice of a proposed absence as is reasonably possible and be willing to discuss with the school how pupils will catch up with work missed. However, it's important to be aware that, for communities observing festivals based on the lunar calendar, exact dates may not be confirmed far in advance. In such cases, families may only be able to provide approximate dates for their observance.

Registered in England & Wales No: 07644208. Registered Address: As above

Parkrun
We are looking forward to our first parkrun as a school group on Sunday. The organisers have sent a special message which I hope you will find helpful if you are attending for the first time:

We are a very friendly event and the community is amazing. We get between 60-120 children running and walking each week and quite a lot of the parents run with the smaller children. The age range is 4-14, so we have some fast runners at 8 minutes and the slowest finish in 20-25 minutes. The beauty of the event is that it is fun and no pressure. We have a tail walker who walks with the slowest participant and there are lots of cheers and hi 5s on the route. Please can we emphasise that while timed, this is a fun event and taking part is what it is all about. My only problems ever are with parents getting over enthusiastic!!

On a practical note, we meet just up from the museum on the fields behind the first set of trees. We try to start the run at 0900 on the dot, but this doesn't always happen. On the morning we have a first timers briefing which is often delivered by a young adult (Toby, this week) at about 0850. If you could get there for this, that would be fab! We then have a briefing and a warm up delivered en masse by our DofE contingent (there are a lot of them!)

The run is a simple 3 laps of the field with a little hill in each lap (compensated with a downhill 3 times too!) At the end, the participants run through the funnel and take a token which they then take with their barcode to be scanned and we will get a result out to them that morning all being well.

Couple of requests:

- We ask any parents not to run through the funnel! It makes life difficult for the timekeepers and some of them (parents) don't like being shouted at! :-)
- We use the same tokens each week, so please don't take them home.
- It would be great if all of the kids could register. It is really easy… https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/
- When you have registered you need to make sure you have the barcode at the event. The easiest way to do this is on a smartphone through the 5k app (it is purple on the homescreen). You can add multiple children to one app, so saves use dealing with soggy or badly printed paper codes.

We hope this is useful. We are really excited for Sunday.

Cross Country
Congratulations to our Year 6 cross country team who participated in their first race yesterday. There were some fantastic individual achievements, especially Sophia who came 4th and Beatrix who came 10th in the Girls race and Thomas who was 18th in the Boys race. Everyone tried their best and supported each other so well too, and we are really proud of them all.

School meal prices
After October half term, the price of a school meal is being increased by 10p and will be £3.00. This is to cover increased costs of food and labour. We understand that no price rise is ever welcome, but we feel that Radish still offers good value for money for our parents, as we are aware of other local schools with different providers who charge £3.45 for a school meal.

Snacks after school
We understand that children may feel hungry or need a little snack to keep them going if they are going to an after-school club. However, some children are bringing unhealthy snacks like packets of crisps and chocolate bars, or they have so much to eat that they are missing part of their club because they are still eating! Please could after school snacks still be healthy and just be something small that they can eat quickly. Please do not send anything that contains nuts, including hidden ingredients in some spreads and other items, because some children have very severe allergies.

Birthdays

A gentle reminder that we do not hand out sweets, biscuits or cakes for children's birthdays due to allergies and cultural reasons that mean some children cannot have them, as well as supporting our approach to healthy eating. We will always wish children a happy birthday in school but there is no expectation that children hand out anything at all to their classmates. Life is busy and expensive enough, especially at birthday times!

Lost property

We have already accumulated a huge amount of lost property and because it is unnamed, we cannot return it to the children who have lost it. Please take some time this weekend to name everything clearly, including coats, hats and gloves, and save us from drowning in lost property!

Accident reporting

We have recently reviewed our procedures for informing parents of accidents at school. To ensure nothing gets missed, from now on we will inform you by email of every accident that happens in school during the school day where first aid has been administered, instead of catching you at the end of the day when it is so busy. Please be reassured that these notifications are for your information only. If there is ever anything more serious that requires your immediate attention, we will always telephone you. If there is an accident at after school club, you will be informed verbally when you collect your child.

Harvest Festival

We will be supporting the St Albans and District Foodbank again this year for our Harvest Festival by collecting donations on Friday 3rd October. The Food Bank has a wish list of items and boxes will be outside during soft start if you would like to donate anything. They are always extremely grateful for our support at this time of year, so thank you in advance if you are able to support this charity.

I hope you have a lovely weekend, and look forward to seeing lots of families at Junior Parkrun!
Yours sincerely,
Mrs Stray

Diary dates Autumn term 2025

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
6th 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 Pctober	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	Year 5 visit to St Albans School for opera performance 10am
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
3rd October	Y5 Boys football v Maple
7th October	Girls football v Cunningham Hill
16th October	Cross Country at Fleetville
4th November	Boys football v St Columba's
7th November	Y5 Girls football v Maple
6th November	Cross Country at Wheatfields
12th November	Boys football v Killigrew
14th November	Year 5 football tournament 1-3pm at St Margaret's School, Bushey
18th November	Girls football v Samuel Ryder
25th November	Girls football v Prae Wood