

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we only have just over one week of the school year left! It is a very busy time of year in school, so I thought I'd send a quick update and a few reminders so that nothing gets missed.

### **Transition Day 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Tomorrow is our transition day. Children in Year 6 will spend the day visiting their secondary schools, and our current pupils will be spending some time tomorrow morning in their new classrooms with the adults who will be working with them next year. If your child is leaving ACS at the end of this year, they will do some alternative activities with Mr Clements and Mr Bushell during this time.

### **Open Evening 11<sup>th</sup> July 5-7pm**

Tomorrow evening the school will be open from 5pm for current, past and prospective families to walk around and see children's work on display in the classrooms and shared areas. Refreshments will be for sale on the PTA stand, as well as second hand uniform. Entry is through the pupil gates, not the front office. Please note that the dining room, hall and playground areas are **not** open to visitors because XYZ will be operating in these areas looking after children that are still on site. I look forward to seeing everyone and sharing the wonderful work and successes the children and staff have achieved this year.

### **Non-school uniform day 12<sup>th</sup> July**

Children are invited to wear their own clothes to school on Friday in exchange for a donation of a bottle and / or cakes for the tombola and cake stalls at the Summer Fair. Donations should be dropped off in the community room during soft start. Hopefully the weather will be dry enough to have our last Field Friday, and Year 1 children have their trip to Knebworth House, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately and wears sensible footwear!

### **Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Forum 12<sup>th</sup> July 8.50am**

I hope lots of you can join me for our very first parent forum to discuss how ACS as a community of parents want to take forward the very important issue of children using smartphones. Following this meeting, I will be sharing our reviewed school policy on children bringing phones to school, which will apply from September 2024.

### **PTA Summer Fair 13<sup>th</sup> July 12-2.30pm**

The PTA have been working very hard to put together a fabulous summer fair, so come rain or shine please come along to have lots of fun and support our fundraising for our new playground. The fair is always a lovely community event, but cannot run without lots of volunteers to give a little of their time to help with the setting up, during the fair and clearing away afterwards. It is not too late to volunteer, so please contact the PTA if you can help. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

### **End of term arrangements 19<sup>th</sup> July**

School ends for the summer holidays at **1.15pm** on 19<sup>th</sup> July for children in Reception – Year 5. There is no XYZ this day. Once you have said your goodbyes, please leave the playground to make space for our Year 6 parents. Year 6 children will be dismissed at **1.30pm** on the playground.

### **After school clubs**

This week is our last week of clubs. There are no after school clubs next week (unless you have been made aware of any specific arrangements.) ABC/XYZ continues as usual until Friday morning.

### **New school lunch catering company**

The contract with our current school lunch provider, abm, comes to an end at October half term. They will continue to provide the lunches for the first half term of the new school year. Following a thorough and rigorous selection process, I am delighted to introduce Radish as our new school lunch catering company from after October half term. We chose Radish for the quality of their food offer and their ethos and approach to providing healthy and delicious school lunches that the children will enjoy eating. Representatives from Radish will be at our open evening tomorrow, so please say hello to them and welcome them to ACS, find out more about their company and sample some of the food they will have on display. More information about Radish, including menus and bespoke menus for children with allergies will be sent out next term. <https://www.radishallgood.com/our-sectors/primary-education/>

### **Playground project update**

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the proposed design for the new playground. We have now received a revised design in response to feedback from children and parents that includes a climbing frame, a sports wall and some markings for games such as hopscotch, noughts and crosses, What's the Time, Mr Wolf and Duck, Duck, Goose, in addition to the sports surface and artificial grass area that were already planned. A large poster will be on display at Open Evening and on the PTA board going forwards for you to see the design. The sports surface will be installed in October half term, and the grass area hopefully in the Easter holidays 2025. We have set up a donations page, and will create a sponsors board to thank any individual or company who donates £50 or more. Please share the link with your family, friends and business contacts. If anyone has experience or contacts in writing sponsorship bids to companies, I would love to hear from you! <https://app.goodhub.com/alban-city-school-11527>



### PE and Sports update

Congratulations to our cricket team who reached the semi-finals of the cricket competition, and to our Girls football teams who participated in a tournament last Saturday and showed amazing resilience to play in freezing, wet conditions. I am delighted to share the good news that we have been awarded the School Games Gold Award for the second year running in recognition of our high quality PE and sport provision. Thank you to Mr Clements who has worked tirelessly this year to develop our clubs and competitive sport offer and give so many children the opportunity to get involved.

### Year 6 SATS results

Yesterday we received the SATS results for our Year 6 children, and I am delighted to say that they are the best set of results we have ever achieved! 90% of our pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined, compared to the Hertfordshire average of 63% and the national average of 61%. These results are testament to the children and staff's hard work and dedication to achieving the very best outcomes, not only in Year 6 but throughout their time at ACS. Congratulations to everyone. I am a very proud Headteacher!

### % of children achieving the expected standard or higher

Subject	School	Herts	National
Reading	95%	78%	74%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	93%	75%	72%
Maths	95%	75%	73%
Writing (teacher assessment)	92%	72%	72%
Science (teacher assessment)	98%	TBC	81%
Reading, writing and maths combined	90%	63%	61%

### % achieving a higher standard (often referred to as Greater Depth or GDS)

Subject	School	Herts
Reading	48%	34%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	62%	36%
Maths	38%	28%
Writing (teacher assessment)	17%	15%
Reading, writing and maths combined	12%	9%

### Annual reports

I hope you have found your child's annual report helpful in understanding the progress they have made this year. Please feel free to speak to your child's teacher if you would like to discuss any aspect of the report.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Open Evening tomorrow, and wish our Year 6 children good luck for their transition day visits to their secondary schools.

Yours sincerely, Mrs Stray