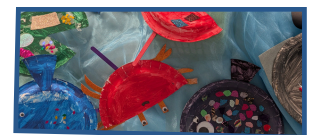




Message from Mrs Stray

Yesterday we held our Open Evening, and what a wonderful event it was! The children's work was displayed beautifully in the classrooms, and OPAL was in full swing on the playground despite the heat! It was lovely to welcome so many current and prospective families and see everyone looking around the school, playing together in the playground and enjoying their evening. Thank you very much to the staff team for their hard work in preparing the school for the event. The high temperatures are continuing into next week, so children are welcome to wear their usual school uniform or their PE kit so that they are as comfortable as possible. I hope you have a good weekend and manage to stay cool in the current heatwave.



Upcoming Events Next Week

- 13 July NSPCC assemblies
- 14 July Y3 Summer Concert 9am
- 16 July Y5 trip to British Schools Museum
- 16 July Year 6 trip to West End show
- 17 July Year 4 Summer Concert 9am
- 21 July Year 6 Leavers Assembly 9.15am
- 21 July End of Term @ 1:15pm for YR-Y5, 1:30pm for Y6

<https://albancityschool.org.uk/news-dates/other-dates/diary-dates/>

Attendance and punctuality

Our current whole school attendance is 96.1%. We have noticed that lots of children are arriving after the gate has closed at 8.50am. Please could you make every effort to arrive before 8.50am so that your child has a calm and settled start to their day in school.

Class Blogs

Don't forget you can catch up on what the children have been learning each week on our Class Blogs.

<https://albancityschool.org.uk/blogs/>



Music news

On Sunday June 28th, Mrs Dore, Mrs Hornblow, and Mrs Davies accompanied the Junior Choir to STAHS for their annual Vocal Partnership Day. The children had the wonderful opportunity to work with renowned children's composer Lin Marsh, learning a variety of songs centred around the theme of "Magic and Mystery." The day concluded with a fantastic concert for the children's families. We are incredibly grateful to STAHS for hosting such a memorable event, and immensely proud of our Junior Choir students, who represented the school brilliantly.

Use of children's images online

We have been reviewing how we use images of children on our website and social media, due to the risk of images being taken and altered by AI for inappropriate purposes. Going forwards we will only be using images of children taken from the back, looking down or side on, and we will not be using front facing images. Our website has been redesigned and will launch in a few weeks time, so any existing images will no longer be available. A new security feature has been built in which means that if you try to copy a photo, it blurs the picture so that it can't be shared or stored. Consent forms for the use of your child's image will be sent in September to give you the opportunity to review the permissions you give.

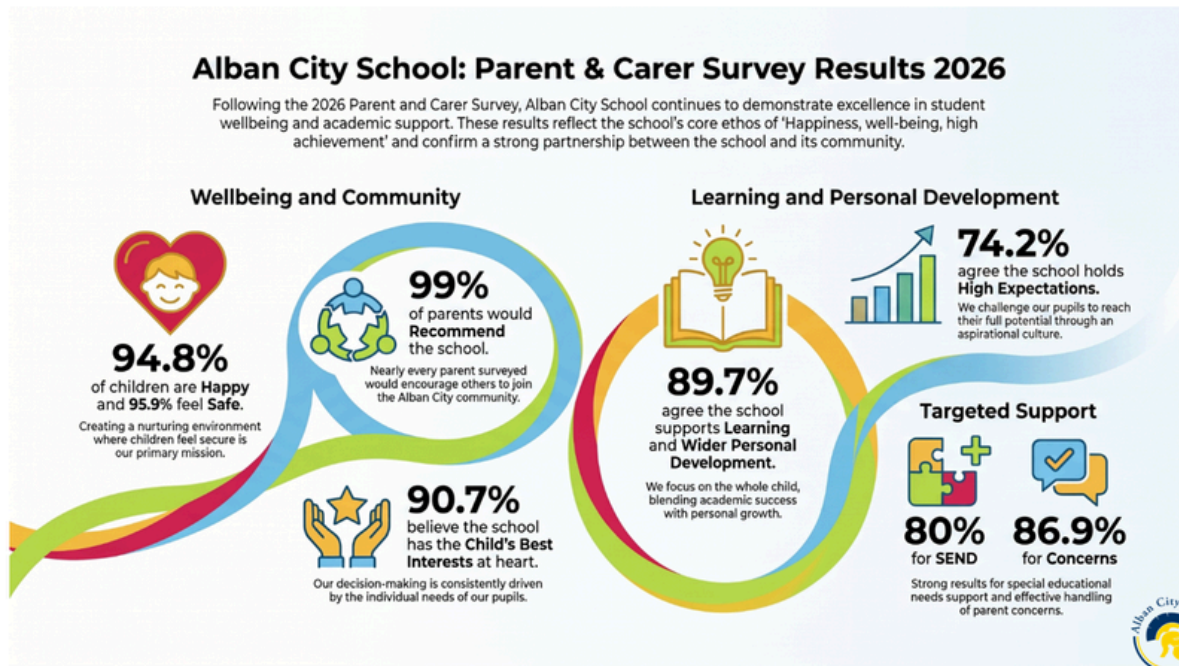
Success outside of school

We're so proud of our Alban City Knights Team who recently won 1st Place in the United Knights Chess Teams Tournament. Stefan, Everett, Noah played against 20 other teams and built their tactics and strategy to be victorious. Congratulations boys!



Parent feedback survey

Thank you very much to everyone who responded to our parent survey. We were delighted to read all your positive and constructive feedback. The comments reflected a high level of satisfaction with the school's culture and leadership.



The most prominent themes include:

- **Positive School Culture and Community:** Many parents praised the welcoming, inclusive and caring environment. They highlighted a strong community feel and the fact that children are genuinely happy to go to school.
- **Exceptional Staff and Leadership:** There is significant praise for individual teachers and the senior leadership team. Staff are described as dedicated, responsive, approachable and kind, with specific mentions of their commitment to student wellbeing.
- **Enriching Learning Experiences:** Parents value the variety of extra activities, school trips and hands-on learning. Specific initiatives like OPAL, soft start, and the "Accelerated Reader" programme were cited as highlights that engage and excite the children.
- **Strong Wellbeing Focus:** A consistent theme is that the school makes decisions with the child's best interests at heart, prioritising wellbeing and personal development alongside academic progress.
- **Improved Facilities:** The playground and renovated outdoor spaces were noted as significant positive changes that have enhanced the children's daily experience.



Parent feedback survey continued

The most prominent themes for school improvement, and my response in italics, were:

- **Catering and School Meals:** This was the most frequent area of concern. Parents suggested improving the quality, variety and portion sizes of school lunches. *I met with the Operations Manager to share these views and asked him to run a parent survey to capture more detailed feedback. I will update you again when I receive more information from the company.*
- **Communication and Feedback on Progress:** While general communication is rated well, some parents requested more frequent or earlier feedback on their child's academic progress. There were also calls for greater transparency and visibility into the specific topics being covered in class to help support learning at home. *We introduced an assessment week this term for Years 1-6 and parents will receive their child's test papers each term going forwards so that they can see how they are doing. Curriculum letters are sent at the beginning of each term and blogs are updated weekly to inform parents about the learning that is taking place. Links to the blogs are provided in a box above.*
- **Extracurricular and Sporting Opportunities:** Suggestions included increasing the capacity of popular clubs, providing more advanced notice for club schedules to assist with childcare planning, and introducing more competitive sports or academically focused clubs. *Capacity is capped in clubs to ensure it is an enjoyable experience for everyone who attends. Academically focused clubs have been offered in the past but do not get a good take up. There are numerous sports clubs and competition is included in the club. We provide as much notice as we can to help parents with scheduling, and will continue to work on this.*
- **Managing Behaviour and Social Development:** Some parents suggested a greater focus on friendship-building, inclusion and bullying prevention. A few comments mentioned the need for more direct teaching on controlling emotions and how to treat others. *Teaching about self-regulation is being further enhanced next year with the introduction of The Good Morning Club programme and resources. More information will be provided next term. Anti-bullying week is an annual event and our values of kindness and respect are ongoing topics for discussion. Members of staff provide constant support for friendships as needed.*
- **SEND Provision and Consistency:** For families with children who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), there were requests for more consistent provision and better communication regarding the implementation of support plans. *The development of our Inclusion Strategy is a key priority area for next academic year, and more information will be shared in due course.*
- **Weather and Outdoor Play:** While OPAL is very popular, some parents were concerned about children being kept outside during heavy rain. *Outdoor play in all but extreme weathers is a key feature of OPAL, and children do need to bring a waterproof coat to school. However, they do not go outside in very hot weather or heavy rain / thunderstorms.*



Exciting news from the PTA Uniform Shop!

We have sourced a supply of zip heads to fit the ACS Logo Fleece zippers.

Should you wish to extend the life of your child's fleece, the new zips are available to purchase on the Uniform Shop website: [Preloved Uniform | Alban City School PTA](#) or in person on Tuesday mornings when we open the shop during soft start for 'Choose it Tuesday'.

Haven't a clue how to replace the zip head on your child's fleece? Our shop volunteers are here to help. Visit us in person on a 'Choose it Tuesday' in the lunchroom. We can help you fit an existing zip or a newly purchased replacement zip.

Have you hesitated to donate a fleece because the zipper was 'broken'? Place it in the donations box at the school entrance near Lime Class. Fleeces are in great demand; we will do our best to mend them.

Erika and the PTA shop team

shop.pta@albancityschool.herts.sch.uk



ACS Logo Fleece Zip Head Replacements are here!



Buy Zip Heads

We have sourced a supply of zip heads to fit the ACS Logo Fleece zippers.

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Donate Your Fleeces

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