

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely break with your family and enjoyed the holidays. Welcome to the new families who have joined us this term.

New emotional literacy programme

This term we are introducing a new initiative called the Feel It Programme, which teaches children about how to recognise, name and manage their emotions. A different emotion will be discussed each week, and the teachers will include in their Friday blog which feeling the children have been learning about so that you can talk about it at home too. Alongside this we are continuing to develop children's understanding of the skills that underpin *how* they learn (metacognitive skills) through the Thinking Classrooms / Learning Jungle programme that we have been using for some time. The focus this term is on being curious. Research has shown that the potential impact of metacognition and self-regulation approaches is high (+7 months additional academic progress), so we believe that these programmes are an important part of our curriculum. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like any more information.

PE Kit

Please remember that children will not be allowed to participate in PE lessons or sports clubs if they do not have their PE kit including footwear. Our outdoor PE kit is a plain navy blue sweatshirt which can be purchased from Stevensons with our logo on it, or unbranded from other high street shops, and plain navy blue or black tracksuit bottoms or leggings. We do not encourage children to wear their usual school jumper or cardigan for PE because it could get sweaty, dirty or wet and then they have nothing to change into afterwards. Shin pads are recommended for football.

Year 3, 4 and 5 football matches

This year one of our areas of focus is developing our Sport and PE provision, so it is very exciting that for the first time we have some competitive football fixtures for other year groups in addition to Year 6. The first matches are only for boys because we are limited by the teams that are available to play against in other local schools, but Mr Clements is working on it and is hoping to extend the opportunity to girls in the summer term. To get started, he will select players for the teams based on their performance and attitude in PE lessons as well as any experience they already have from playing football outside of school, but if your child is not selected on this occasion there will more opportunities in the future as we hope this is just the beginning!

Attendance

We begin 2024 at 96% attendance, which ranks us 33 out of the 332 primary schools in Herts who share their attendance data. However, I am still getting numerous requests for holidays in term time, including visiting relatives who live overseas. School attendance is scrutinised very closely by the local authority and I am unable to authorise these requests, so *please* plan your trips for the school holidays. Thank you for your ongoing support; hopefully we can climb the rankings this term too!

St Albans Musical Voices - Find Your Musical Voice!

These sessions specialise in offering a safe space where children in Years 2-5 can come and sing whatever their ability. The children will learn all aspects of singing, whilst singing enjoyable music, and having lots of fun. No previous experience necessary. Workshops with visiting specialists, performance opportunities and progression routes are all part of the fun. Please note this activity takes place outside school, at St Albans Music School – Thursdays 4:30 – 5:30pm, starting 11th January. For more information and to sign up, please visit <https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/st-albans-music-school>, and scroll to 'Something for Everyone'.

PTA AGM

The AGM is being held next Tuesday at 7.30pm at school. Danielle and Lucy have done a fantastic job as chairs of the PTA and we are enormously grateful to them, but their term is up and they will be stepping down at the AGM. Sadly, no one has offered to take over the role of chair from them, so the stark reality is that unless someone comes forward to save the day, the PTA will not be able to function in the same way going forwards. This would be a huge loss for the school community. If you are able to help, please don't hesitate to speak to Danielle, Lucy or me.

Change to lunch menus

Last term we trialled the introduction of a baguette option for lunch. It has been very popular with the children, so from Monday baguettes will be available every day alongside the usual menu choices.

Solar Panels

I am delighted to say that the work has now been completed on the installation of the solar panels on the roof, and we are also able to monitor how much energy we generate and consume. We are hoping to display this information on the large screen in the entrance area and on our website so that everyone can see it. Representatives from the company will be coming to talk to the children in assembly about the panels, how they work and to answer any questions they may have. The fundraising campaign closes at the end of January, so there is still time if you or the company you work for would like to make a contribution. <https://app.goodhub.com/alban-city-school-9605>



Have a lovely weekend,

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Stray

Spring Term Diary Dates

15th January	Spurs football sessions Crimson, Amber, Amethyst classes
15th January	Clubs Start
16 th January	PTA AGM 7.30pm
17th January	Boys B football v Prae Wood
18 th January	Boys A football v St John Fisher
19 th January	Girls football quarter final match v Garden Fields
22nd January	Spurs football sessions Aqua, Gold, Forest classes
25th January	Y6 Sports Hall Games @ Oaklands College
25th January	Boys A football v Oakwood
26th January	Girls football v Prae Wood
26th January	Amber class sharing assembly 9am
29th January	Spurs football sessions Scarlet, Vermillion, Magenta classes
31st January	Girls football v Mandeville
1st February	Y4 football v Skyswood
2nd February	Young Voices concert – Wembley Arena
2nd February	Boys B football and Y5 v Killigrew
2nd February	Vermillion Class sharing assembly 9am
5 th February	Spurs football sessions Sky, Saffron, Sage classes
7th February	Boys B and Girls football v Samuel Ryder
9th February	Crimson Class sharing assembly 9am
16th February	Scarlet Class sharing assembly 9am
19th February	Half Term week
28th February	Y4 football v Bowmansgreen
29th February	Cross Country at Mandeville
1st March	Sky Class sharing assembly 9am
5th March	Animal Man visiting Y2
6th March	Y2/3 football v Bowmansgreen

7th March	World Book Day
8th March	Aqua Class sharing assembly 9am
9th March	Y6 Netball Tournament
14th March	Cross country at Garden Fields
15th March	Lime Class sharing assembly 9am
18th March	Last week of clubs
19th March	Parents Evening
19th March	Y5 Netball Tournament
21st March	Parents Evening
22nd March	Apple Class sharing assembly 9am
25 th March	Year 5 concert in the theatre 9am
26 th March	Orchestra concert in the hall 9am
27 th March	Year 4 concert in the theatre 9am
28th March	End of Term 1:30pm

ST ALBANS & DACORUM SCHOOL JOBS FAIR



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Key Worker
Pre-school Early Start
Nursery Worker
Nurse Wrap-around Care
EARLY YEARS JOBS
Day-care Nursery
Early Years Practitioner Teacher
Room Leader

ECT
Nursery Subject
SEND Teacher
Class Teacher Secondary
TEACHING JOBS
Head of Department
Head of Year Subject
Primary Lead
Key Stage Lead

HLTA
Teaching Assistant
Cover Facilities
Supervisor Premises
Science Technician **Finance**
PROFESSIONAL AND SUPPORT JOBS
LSA Midday Supervisor HR
Administration Pastoral
Food Technician Exam Invigilator
IT Technician Clerk to Governors

CFO Deputy Head
MAT Director COO
INCO **Principal**
Governor Executive Head
LEADERSHIP JOBS
Assistant School Business
Head Head Manager
Headteacher
CEO Trustee
SENCO

Thursday 15th February 2024
17:00-19:00

St Albans Girls' School
Sandridgebury Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6DB

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