

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I would like to say well done to all the children for their hard work, enthusiasm and the progress they have made. It has been a very busy term, with so many amazing highlights including trips, visitors, theme days, assemblies, concerts, sports fixtures and performances, alongside the regular curriculum lessons. The staff have worked tirelessly to provide all these learning opportunities and experiences for the children, and I would like to say a huge thank you to them too. Finally, thank you to all our parents, governors and volunteers for your endless support because we couldn't do what we do without this!

### **Mrs Moore**

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Moore at the end of term. She has worked at ACS since the second year the school opened and has been an integral member of the staff team, helping the school to grow and flourish from its earliest days to what it is today. We are really going to miss her calm presence and brilliant teaching, and we wish her all the best for her new life in Cornwall with her family.

### **Sports round up**

It has been a busy term for sports fixtures. A total of 45 fixtures have been played, with 84 goals scored by 26 different scorers. Below is an overview, but special mentions must go to the Year 6 Girls football team who are unbeaten and are through to the City Cup semi-finals, Ben who was player of the tournament at the recent St Albans tournament and Mabel S who is currently 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Cross Country individual league. Congratulations to everyone who has taken part, and thank you to Mr Clements for organising so many fixtures!

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals scored
Year 6 Boys	15	5	0	10	16
Year 6 Girls	9	9	0	0	32
Year 4/5 Boys	5	0	2	3	4
Year 4/5 Girls	5	4	0	1	21
Year 6 Netball	5	0	0	5	11

### **Computing success**

In November, all the children from Year 2 to Year 6 participated in The Bebras Challenge. This is a national competition where the children solve problems based on computational and mathematical thinking. The results were published recently and here are some highlights:

- Nearly half-a-million pupils aged 6 - 19 took part
- In our school, 25 pupils across Year 2 to 6 ranked in the top 10% nationally
- Nationally, only 299 pupils in the Y4/Y5 age group scored 100%. Everett in Y4 and William S in Y5 achieved this.
- We potentially have 16 pupils who might participate in the next round of the competition in March (for reference, last year we had 6 or 7 pupils)

Congratulations to everyone who took part and to Mr Bushell for organising it.

### **Attendance**

We are finishing the term on 96.4% attendance. Thank you for your ongoing support. Next term we will be aiming for 97%!

### **Christmas Lunch 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper, hat or some festive headgear for their Christmas Lunch next week. They can wear this with their uniform instead of their school jumper, or bring it in their bag to put on at lunchtime, but please wear normal school uniform this day otherwise.

### **Maths Parent Meeting**

Following the very successful maths meeting we held this term, the second meeting in the series will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January in the school hall from 9.00-9.45am. Last time we had over 100 parents in attendance, so we're hoping to see lots of you there again!

### **End of term arrangements**

We finish at 1.30pm on Thursday for the Christmas holidays. Breakfast club will run as normal but there is no after school club on this day.

### **Inset Day**

Please remember that 6<sup>th</sup> January is an Inset day so the school is closed to pupils. The children return on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

I hope you have a fun-filled break and enjoy all the festivities if you are celebrating Christmas or Hannukah. Next week we will send out a Christmas themed quiz (thank to our resident quiz master Mrs Bland!) which we hope you will enjoy playing with your family.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stray

### **Diary Dates Autumn Term 2024**

16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 and 6 AI workshops with University of Herts
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime at the Alban Arena 10:30am
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Christmas Concert in the theatre at 9:00am
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 2 Christmas Concert in the theatre at 9:00am
19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term 1.30pm
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Occasional Day - school closed

### **Diary Dates Spring Term 2025 (more will be added after Christmas)**

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Inset Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	First day of Spring Term
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Clubs start
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Maths parent meeting 9.00-9.45am in the school hall
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Year 6 TLM survey (school health team)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Year 5 & 6 Money Management workshop
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Year 5 & 6 Money Management workshop
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	ELSA clinic (Diabetes screening)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Class photographs
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Saffron class assembly 9.00am in the theatre
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Orchestra Day at St Albans School for invited musicians Y4-6
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Gold class assembly
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half term break
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Amber class assembly
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Vermillion class assembly
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Crimson class visit to Cathedral
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Scarlet class visit to Cathedral
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Crimson class assembly
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Scarlet class assembly
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	End of term 1.30pm

### **Sports fixtures**

Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Girls friendly vs Skyswood
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Boys A vs Killigrew
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Girls vs Killigrew
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Girls vs Cunningham Hill
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Year 5 Girls vs Bowmansgreen
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Sportshall Qualifiers
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Year 5 Boys vs Bowmansgreen
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Boys A Cup match tbc
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Boys A vs Bowmansgreen
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Girls vs St Alban and St Stephen
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Girls tournament at Watford Training Ground
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 5 Girls vs Bowmansgreen
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Boys A & B vs Prae Wood
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Cross country @ Mandeville
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Girls A friendly vs Prae Wood
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Cross country @ Garden Fields