

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely time with your family over the holiday period. A very warm welcome to the new families who have joined us this week. Welcome also to our new members of staff: Miss McKay is teaching Scarlet class to cover Mrs Moore's maternity leave and Miss Simister has joined us as a Learning Support assistant.

I have been so impressed with how quickly the children have settled back into the school routines. We have been focusing on our school values of Kindness, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience in assemblies this week and we have already seen some superb examples of children demonstrating these values around the school. I hope you see this at home too!

School donations page

Before Christmas I shared a letter with you about the worrying state of school funding. Since then a few parents have approached me to say they would be happy to make a financial donation and have asked if we are setting up a donations page. We have therefore created a page with InvestMyCommunity which provides an opportunity to make a one off donation or the option to set up a monthly gift online. With either option you can add Gift Aid at the click of a button which adds an extra 25% to the donation free of charge. We will use the fund to subsidise school trips and extra-curricular opportunities for families who may otherwise find this additional cost difficult, and to support us to continue to provide high quality educational provision for our pupils. The link to the page is [here](#) and it is also on our [website](#).

NSPCC assemblies

This term we will be participating in the NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe* programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. *Speak out. Stay safe* is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline. In the online assembly, the *Speak out. Stay safe* messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe* programme you can find information on the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout or I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have. Please rest assured that the messages are age appropriate and are not intended to raise children's worries, but they are an important part of our safeguarding provision to ensure children have a voice and know what they can do to keep themselves safe.

World Religion Day

On 15th January it is World Religion Day. We would like to recognise this day and celebrate the wonderful diversity we have within our school community by inviting parents and carers to speak to their child's class about their faith or beliefs. If you would be interested in doing this, please speak to your child's class teacher to arrange a convenient time.

Theme lunch and change of menu next week

On Thursday 19th January our catering company is holding an American themed lunch day and the flyer is below. The published menu for Monday will swap with Thursday next week, so Monday will be Chicken Wrap or Margherita Pizza and Thursday will be Burgers.

Teaching Assistant vacancy

We are advertising for a teaching assistant for Year 5. If you are interested, or you know of anyone who might be, please have a look at the advert on [Teach in Herts](#).

PE kit

Please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit in school. Our PE kit is a plain white t shirt, plain black shorts, plain black or navy joggers and trainers or plimsolls. If your child is wearing tights, they will also need a pair of socks to change into. We have never had a school uniform PE sweatshirt as part of the PE kit, so children usually wear their school cardigan or jumper, but this can get sweaty or dirty. We are therefore introducing a navy blue sweatshirt to our PE kit, which is available from Stevensons with the school logo printed on it, or as an unbranded item from high street shops and supermarkets. If you are buying one from the high street please ensure it is plain navy blue and a sweatshirt not a hoodie. Please don't feel that you need to go out and buy one this weekend though – this is an optional item.

Messages from the PTA

1. **PTA Meeting Tuesday 17th January 19.30 - 20.30:** A quick reminder that we have a PTA meeting on Tuesday 17th January 19.30 - 20.30. The meeting is being held at school but Zoom details are also available if you can't join in person. All parents and carers are welcome to join and help discuss our fundraising plans and strategy for the year. Contact the PTA if you want more information or details on how to join via Zoom.
2. **Donations of Christmas Jumpers:** Having a New Year clear out? The PTA would love any donations of Christmas jumpers that the family may have outgrown in readiness for next year's sale. You can donate any used, but good quality Christmas jumpers at the Nearly New Uniform collection bin by the Reception entrance this half term.
3. **For further information on any of the above:** Please contact Danielle or Lucy at pta@albancityschool.herts.sch.uk

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stray



BUILD A BURGER DAY

Join Us on Thursday 19th January

BEEF BURGER IN A BUN

Then choose your toppings and sauce from the salad bar to create your very own style burger

FALAFEL BURGER IN A BUN

Then choose your toppings and sauce from the salad bar to create your very own style burger

Both served with Potato Wedges &
Sweetcorn

CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

Diary dates Spring term 2023

16th January	Clubs start
17th January	PTA meeting 7.30pm at school
19 th January	American themed lunch day
7th February	Young voices concert at Wembley
8th February	Year 2 trip to concert at Royal Festival Hall
9th February	PTA film night for Reception
13th February	Half term week
2nd March	World Book Day
3rd March	Amber sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
9th March	Vermillion sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
17th March	Crimson sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
20th March	Clubs end this week
20th March	Parents Evening 3:40-7:00pm
22nd March	Parents Evening 3:40-7:00pm
24th March	Scarlet sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
27th March	Year 4 Spring Concert in the theatre at 9:00am
28th March	Orchestra performance in the hall at 9.00am
30th March	PTA Easter bake sale
31st March	Year 5 Spring Concert in the theatre at 9:00am
31st March	PTA Easter raffle
31st March	End of term 1.30pm