

Dear Parents and Carers,

Smartphone Free Childhood

Please see attached a joint statement on a Smartphone-free Childhood from St Albans Primary School Headteachers. You may have seen this in the media last night or this morning.

Thank you very much to everyone who has responded so far to our consultation on banning smartphones at ACS. We have received 124 responses so far, with 88% of respondents in favour of a policy to ban smartphones, and 83% supporting the introduction of this policy in September 2024. Your comments have been very interesting and helpful too. The majority of comments are around protecting children from being exposed to unkind, harmful or inappropriate content online, welcoming the removal of peer pressure to have a smartphone if no one else in the class has one and or is using social media, and just a general feeling that children don't need to have their own phone while they are at primary school. Many people said they felt pressure to give their child a phone, so they would welcome a whole school approach to saying no. I understand that some parents rely on apps on smartphones to track their child's whereabouts and reassure themselves that their child has arrived at school safely. However, there are alternatives to this that remove the need for a smartphone, such as tags that go on a bag or simple phones that have a GPS function but no social media or internet functionality. I will leave the survey open until after half term, then write to you again with an update of how we propose to move forwards at ACS.

Sports Day

A reminder that we are holding our Sports Day this Friday. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit which they can keep on all day. Teachers will make sure children bring their kit home with them today or tomorrow. Please ensure your child has their water bottle and their PE jumper/ school fleece/coat to keep warm while they are watching. We have a Sports Day themed lunch planned and the menu is below. The venue for Sports Day is the playing field in Normandy Road and there is no parking available. The timings are as follows:

Reception and Year 1: 9.30 - 10.30

Year 2 and Year 3: 11.00 – 12.00

Years 4, 5 and 6: 1.30 – 3.00 Children will be lined up and dismissed from the field if their adult is there, or brought back to school by staff for the usual end of the day collection time. After school clubs will run as usual. **If your child usually has permission to walk home from school on their own, please use this form to tell us that we can let them leave from the field without an adult.** <https://forms.gle/8BFjqVfvvyfYiLn98> Unless we receive a response, we will bring them back to school. Please note this only applies to Year 6 children, unless we already have an existing arrangement with you.

We hope you can join us to cheer on the children. The weather is looking hopeful, so please keep everything crossed for a dry day!

Next week is half term, and I hope you enjoy the break. School reopens on Monday 3rd June.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stray

Summer term 2024 diary dates (New dates in blue)

23 rd May	Year 6 Street Art workshops
23 rd May	Cricket match v Oakwood
24 th May	Sports Day (YR & 1 9.30-10.30; Y2 & 3 11.00-12.00; Y4-6 1.30-3.00)
27 th May	Half term week
3 rd June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check week
4 th June	Sage trip to St Albans Museum
5 th June	Year 5 and Year 6 Online safety talk with PC Lumm
6 th June	Forest trip to St Albans Museum
6 th June	Cricket match v St Columbas
7 th June	Year 4 trip to Epping Forest
10 th June	Year 5 K'nex Challenge
10 th June	Phonics screening check week
11 th June	Sustainability Day
12 th – 14 th June	Year 6 residential trip to Youlbury
13 th June	Cricket match v Maple
20 th June	Faith leaders assembly
20 th June	PTA disco for Years 2 and 3
21 st June	Science Fair
21 st June	Reception class trip to Rye Meads
24 th June	New Reception children stay and play 3.45pm
26 th June	Amethyst class trip to Wagamamas
27 th June	Magenta class trip to Wagamamas
27 th June	Cricket match v Skyswood

30 th June	Choir performing at STAHS
1 st July	New Reception children stay and play 3.45pm
2 nd July	Orchestra concert to parents 9.00am in main hall
3 rd July	Year 2 trip to Whipsnade Zoo
3 rd July	Year 3 Recorder concert 9.00am in the theatre
5 th July	Year 6 performance 9.15am in main hall
5 th July	End of year reports sent out
9 th July	Year 5 trip to Victorian Schools Museum
11 th July	Transition Day
11 th July	Open Evening 5-7pm
12 th July	Year 6 Leavers Disco 7pm
12 th July	Year 1 trip to Knebworth House
13 th July	PTA Summer Fair 12 – 2.30pm
17 th July	Year 6 trip to Wicked
19 th July	Leavers' assembly 9.15am in theatre
19 th July	End of term Reception - Year 5 1.15pm, Year 6 1.30pm

A menu card for Sports Day, featuring a yellow header with the title 'SPORTS DAY' and a list of food options on a grey background. The card is surrounded by various sports equipment like a football, basketball, soccer ball, tennis racket, and badminton shuttlecock on a grassy field.

SPORTS DAY

Friday 24th May

Choose From:

Team Spirit Tacos
(beef mince served with a taco)

Halal option of the above

Medal Winning Macaroni Cheese
(Served with sprint relay carrot batons &
sweetcorn)

Pedalling Pasta with tomato & basil sauce

Bouncing Baguettes with Cheese/Tuna or Ham

Dessert

Finish Line Flapjack