

Dear Parents and Carers,

European Day of Languages Monday 29th September

An amazing fact for your Friday...we currently speak 34 different languages within our school community! We will be celebrating this rich diversity on Monday 29th September which is European Day of Languages. If you would like to visit your child's class for a short time to share your language with them, please speak to your child's teacher.

Harvest Festival Monday 3rd October

This year we will be welcoming Rev Liz Guest from St Peter's Church to lead our Harvest Festival assembly. We will also be collecting donations for the St Albans and District Foodbank. A list of food items they need is below. They are also grateful for donations of non-food items such as toiletries, laundry, cleaning and sanitary products, as these are just as essential to their clients. We understand that the cost of living is difficult for everyone, but if you are able to make a small donation, it will be much appreciated. Please also be aware that we are able to issue food bank vouchers, so do not hesitate to speak to me in confidence if you ever need this help.

National Poetry Day Thursday 6th October

Another day of celebration in school, this time for poetry. There will also be a themed lunch this day which all children are welcome to join in, even if they don't usually have a school meal. The menu is below, and no pre-booking is required.

Scooter storage

A few children have started to bring their bikes to school. Children are welcome to bring their scooters and leave them in our scooter park, but I'm afraid we do not have space for everyone's bicycles so scooters only please!

Attendance and Punctuality (Current whole school attendance 96.9%; school target 96%)

At the start of a new school year, it seems a good time to remind you of the need to ensure your child is in school every day as long as they are well enough and on time for the start of the day. The graphic below shows how quickly lost learning time builds up, and this then places your child at a disadvantage. Mrs Carter is our attendance lead, and she monitors our registers closely and will contact you if there is a concern following our attendance policy. If there is ever a difficulty with school attendance or punctuality though please do let us know because we would always like to work with you and support you to get your child into school. I am unable to authorise requests for holiday in term time, so please check our term dates closely before you book and remember that your child or their friends always tells us where they are! Soft start ends and our pupil entrance gate closes at 8.50am which is when teachers take the registers, so if you arrive after this time please go to the school office. If your child is ill, please email or telephone to let us know. If we do not hear from you, we will contact you to check on your child's wellbeing. Thank you so much for your support.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absence	Learning Hours Lost
EXCELLENT	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
GOOD	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
SATISFACTORY	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
CAUSE FOR CONCERN	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
UNSATISFACTORY	86%	163 days	27	135
SERIOUS CAUSE FOR CONCERN	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
CRITICAL	80%	152 days	38	190

Class lending libraries

Having shared with you a list of 50 recommended reads for each year group, we thought it would be nice to create year group lending libraries that will be kept in the shared areas outside the classrooms for parents and children to borrow a book from the list. Building up the full collection of books will be quite expensive, so if you would like to help by donating one or more of the books to get us going, a list will be posted outside the classrooms. Please just tick off the one you are buying so that we can try to get all the titles. The PTA will help too!

Whole school photograph

You should have received a link today to view our whole school photograph and information about how to order one if you would like to.

School tours for Reception entry September 2023

If you know anyone in the local area who is looking for a Reception place for September 2023 for their child, please recommend our school to them and let them know that our tour dates and booking information are published on our website and social media pages. Tours can be booked using this link <https://www.picktime.com/AlbanCitySchoolTours> Parent feedback and word of mouth is a great way to attract new families, so if you would like to leave a review on our Facebook page (hopefully a 5* one!) or on any other local social media pages we would be very grateful.

Assessment results

Our SATS results for July 2022 are now published on our website. We are very proud of the children and staff for all their hard work and their amazing achievements, particularly given the disruption they had to their education during the pandemic.

<https://albancityschool.org.uk/curriculum/assessment-results/>

Staff update

Welcome to Miss Tselentis who is our new Admin Assistant and Miss Beiroa who is our new teaching assistant in Early Years. Very sadly we are saying goodbye to Mrs Teufel next Friday and we wish her good luck in her new career.

Messages from the PTA

Every quarter, your EasyFundraising donations are spent on books for the school. This quarter we are planning to help to buy each year group a set of books from the suggested reading lists recently sent home. Thank you to those who have supported the EasyFundraising initiative which has raised over £5k to date. If you would like more information on this free and easy service that turns your online purchases into free donations for the school, at no extra cost to you, please follow the link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/albancitypta/>

Our first meeting of the year is on Wednesday 28th September at 7pm at school or on Zoom. It is always a very friendly and sociable gathering, so if you have never been before and would like to see how you can get involved in supporting our lovely school, it would be great to see you.

We are also holding a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday 30th Sept 8.45 - 10.00am in the Community Room. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents as well as pick up a few pieces of uniform from the Nearly New Shop which will be there.

Sorry for the very long newsletter this week! Thanks for reading to the bottom! Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stray

Diary dates Autumn term 2022

26th September	European Day of Languages
28 th September	PTA meeting 7pm
30 th September	PTA coffee morning in aid of Macmillan
3rd October	Harvest Festival assembly and collection for the St Albans Foodbank
6th October	Year 6 visit to Crucial Crew
6 th October	National Poetry Day and themed lunch
13th October	Flu vaccinations
20th October	Halloween disco for Phase 3
20th October	PTA Spooky hair day
24 th October	Half term week
4th November	Magenta sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
11th November	Amethyst sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
14th November	Year 6 cycle training all week
14th November	Parents Evening 3:40-7:00pm
17th November	Parents Evening 3:40-7:00pm
18th November	Sage sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
23rd November	Flu vaccinations catch up
25th November	Forest sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
2nd December	Saffron sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
3rd December	PTA Christmas Fair
7th December	Y1 Performance in the theatre at 9:15am
9th December	Gold sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
13th December	Reception Performance in the theatre at 9:15am
14th December	Christmas Lunch
15th December	Pantomime at the Alban Arena 10:30am

19th December Year 3 Christmas Concert in the theatre at 9:00am

20th December Year 2 Christmas Concert in the theatre at 9:00am

21st December End of term 1.30pm

ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT FOODBANK

DONATE FOOD

Please help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



HOW OUR FOODBANK WORKS

Step 1 Food is Donated

Non-perishable food is donated by schools, churches, businesses and individuals.

Step 2 Food is sorted and stored

Volunteers sort food to check that it's in date and store it ready for distribution.

Step 3 Professionals identify people in need

We work with a wide range of care professionals such as health visitors, social workers, police and Citizens Advice Bureau to identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher.

Step 4 Clients receive food and further support

Clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food. Volunteers take the time to listen to clients and signpost them to agencies able to help with their longer-term problem.

Things we need

Baked Beans
Pasta
Rice
Tinned rice pudding
Tinned custard
Tinned peas
Tinned sweetcorn
Tinned soups
Tinned meats
Tinned fish
Tinned tomatoes
Desserts
Biscuits
Cereals (not oats - we have plenty!)
Longlife fruit juice
Longlife Milk
Cooking Sauces
Cooking Oil (1 litre max)
Noodles
Jam/Spreads
Toilet Rolls
Shower Gel/Shampoo
Laundry powder/tabs
Nappies sizes 5 and upwards
Tea/Coffee

Things we don't need

Fresh food (we can't store it!)

6TH
OCTOBER

WORLD
POETRY
DAY

Poets Pizza Party

Ham & Cheese Pizza

Or

Cheese & Tomato Pizza

Served with
Chips & Sweetcorn

Followed By

Chocolate Brownie

