



24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a long and busy half term, and I am sure that everyone is looking forward to a very welcome break and a chance to rest from the usual routines. The children have made huge progress this term, and there have been so many fantastic activities, visitors and experiences that enrich their learning and enjoyment of school. Particular highlights include Year 2's trip to Mountfitchet Castle, Year 3's Stone Age Day, Year 4's trip to the British Museum, Digital Innovation Week, and I can't leave out the fabulous Halloween Disco last night and Crazy Hair Day today! None of this would be possible without the endless dedication and incredible hard work of our staff team, so a huge thank you to them, and also thank you to the PTA and to all parents for your support because we couldn't do it without you!

New Chair of Governors

Mrs Paula Willoughby has stepped down as our Chair of Governors, although she continues to be one of our governors. We would like to send an enormous vote of thanks to Paula for leading the Governing Body over the last few years and for her unwavering support for our school. We are delighted that Mr Mike Lovett has been appointed as our new Chair of Governors.

School lunch catering company

Due to some ongoing management difficulties within Radish that they have been unable to resolve, unfortunately we need to change our catering company at short notice. We are pleased to welcome Stir as our new school lunch provider after half term. Our lovely team in the kitchen will remain the same, and representatives from Stir look forward to meeting parents at our parent consultation meetings in November. The new menus will be sent out during half term week and uploaded to our website.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance at the end of this half term is 97% which is excellent, so a huge thank you for your support with ensuring your child has good attendance.

Coats needed!

Please remember that we are an OPAL school, and the OPAL approach to play is that children go outside in all but extreme or unsafe weather, so they need a **warm, waterproof** coat in school every day. They can also bring wellies to school to change into on wet days. If you are new to our school or would like to refresh your memory, there is information about OPAL on our website [here](#)

Cross country

Our team ran very well again last week on a challenging course with more hills than last time. Congratulations to all of them for doing their very best, and particularly well done to Sophia (3rd) Beatrix (9th) Thomas (13th) and Fergus (14th).

I hope you have a fun and relaxing half term break. Monday 3rd November is an INSET day so I look forward to seeing everyone return to school on Tuesday 4th.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Stray

Message from the PTA

We hope everyone had a fabulous non-uniform day; we have loved seeing the crazy hair. There is still time to donate; remember all money raised will go towards the school's wish list for the year. Please use the link below:

<https://donate.stripe.com/4gw2ac32qb05c9O7ss>

For anyone wanting to order any festive cards and merchandise, the online shop will close Sunday 26th October. Please see details on the order form that children brought home from school. If anyone has lost their form and needs the reference/pin code, please email us on: XmasCardsACSPTA@outlook.com

Finally, the Winter Fair is just around the corner! We have a confirmed date of Saturday 29th November, 2-4pm. This event can only run with the help of our fabulous volunteers. Please take a look at the ways you can support the school, using the sign-up sheet below. We are also asking for donations for our games, so, if you're having a half-term clear out, these are the things we are looking for: party bag sized toys for our lucky dip, teddies (big and small) for our teddy tombola, toys for our second-hand toyshop, and Christmas jumpers and fancy dress for our fabulous clothes shop.

<https://volunteersignup.org/7RDPQ>

Thank you for your support,
PTA Team

Diary dates Autumn term 2025

27th October	Half term week
3rd November	INSET day - school closed to pupils
10th November	Anti-bullying Week
13 th November	Year 5 visit to St Albans School for opera performance 10am
13th November	Parents Evening 3:40-7:00pm
14th November	Magenta sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
14th November	Flu vaccinations catch up
16th November	Choir performance at St Albans Christmas Cracker event
18th November	Parents Evening 3:40-7:00pm
20th November	Year 5 visit to Masorti Synagogue
21st November	Amethyst sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
21st November	Year 6 Debating workshop
24 th November	Pumpkins Wildlife Hospital assembly
28th November	Sage sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
28 th November	Non-school uniform day - tombola and cake donations
29 th November	PTA Winter Fair
2nd December	Advent Service rehearsal 1 - 2.30pm for Year 6 readers

3rd December	Schools Advent Service in Cathedral for some Year 6 children
5th December	Forest sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
5 th December	Wear It Wild Day – fundraiser for Pumpkins Wildlife Hospital
8th December	Reception health screening for Sept-Feb born children
9th December	Orchestra concert in the hall 9.00am
10th December	Year 1 performance in the theatre at 9:15am
12th December	Reception performance in the theatre at 9:15am
15th December	Year 3 concert 3pm in the theatre
16th December	Pantomime at the Alban Arena 10:30am
17th December	Christmas Lunch
19th December	Year 2 concert in the theatre at 9:00am
19th December	End of term 1.30pm

Sports Fixtures

4th November	Boys football v St Columba's
6th November	Cross Country at Wheatfields
14th November	Year 5 Girls football v Maple
12th November	Boys football v Killigrew
12th November	Netball v Maple
18th November	Girls football v Samuel Ryder
21st November	Year 5 Boys football v Aboyne Lodge
24th November	Netball v Bernards Heath
25th November	Girls football v Prae Wood
28 th November	Year 5 Girls football v Aboyne Lodge
5 th December	Year 4 Boys football v Maple