

Dear Parents and Carers,

Redesign of Victoria Street Competition

All the children in years 4, 5 and 6 recently took part in a competition to redesign Victoria Street. I am delighted to say that out of all the children in St Albans who took part, a group of children in Saffron class were awarded first place by the Mayor. Congratulations to Sophia, Jessica, Henry, Tommy, George, Alfie, and Sunny who have won a £100 voucher for our school.

School Council and Eco Council updates

Our school council recently visited the House of Parliament for a workshop and tour to learn more about how our country is governed. They met with Daisy Cooper MP for a question-and-answer session, and really impressed her and us with their thoughtful questions. The Eco Council visited Rookery South Power Station and had a very interesting day learning about how energy can be made from waste. Well done to all the children for representing our school so well.

Message from Miss Lord, SENCo

You may be aware from recent stories in the media that schools across the country are facing challenges in meeting the needs of the rising numbers of children with special educational needs & disabilities (SEND). We are no exception at ACS and are seeing increasing numbers of children with SEND needs. The SEND Team are doing their best to work as quickly and fairly as possible but we are aware that we are not able to respond to parents or do some of the jobs we used to as quickly as we once did or provide some of the support we used to be able to offer. We are looking at how we can do things differently in order to keep up with the demand for SEND support in school in a way that is fair to all children and families. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We will provide further updates soon.

Attendance

Our whole school current attendance is 96.3%. This is a gentle reminder of all the instances where absence would not be authorised:

- parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for non-infectious illness or injury that would not affect their ability to learn
- absences which have never been properly explained
- children who arrive at school after the close of registration are marked using a 'U'. This indicates that they are in school for safeguarding purposes, however, is counted as an absence for the session
- shopping trips
- looking after other children or children accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments
- their own or family birthdays
- holidays taken during term time, not deemed 'for exceptional purposes' by the headteacher, including any arranged by other family members or friends.
- holidays that overlap the beginning and end of term including half term holidays
- day trips
- children being kept off school because their parent is ill

Poppy Appeal

Thank you for your support for the Poppy Appeal. Our school raised £153 for the charity and we have received a message of thanks from them.

Supporting our community

We are pleased to be supporting two local charities at this time of the year. Next Friday the PTA will be collecting donations of new, unwrapped toys for the Salvations Army's Christmas Present Appeal,

and further information is attached. There will also be a box just inside the pupil entrance that will be there until the end of term for donations to the Open Door night shelter in Bricket Road. A list of items they would be really grateful to receive is below.

Have a lovely weekend, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Fair tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Stray

Diary dates Autumn term 2024

30 th November	PTA Christmas Fair 2-4pm
3 rd December	Choir singing in St Peter's Church
4th December	Y1 Performance in the theatre at 9:15am
6th December	Forest sharing assembly in the theatre at 9:00am
13th December	Reception Performance in the theatre at 9:15am
16 th December	AI assembly and workshop with University of Herts
17th December	Pantomime at the Alban Arena 10:30am
18th December	Year 3 Christmas Concert in the theatre at 9:00am
18th December	Christmas Lunch
19th December	Year 2 Christmas Concert in the theatre at 9:00am
19th December	End of term 1.30pm
20th December	Occasional Day - school closed

Sports Fixtures

Football

Friday 6th December - Girls and Boys tournaments @ Harvesters

Monday 9th December - Year 5 Girls @ Skyswood

Tuesday 10th December - Year 4 Girls @ Skyswood

Thursday 12th December - Year 5 @ Fleetville

Monday 16th December - Boys B & C @ Killigrew



**OPEN
DOOR**
ST ALBANS

Christmas

DONATION LIST

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTMAS BISCUITS | <input type="checkbox"/> TUB OF CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHOCOLATE YULE LOG | <input type="checkbox"/> HOT CHOCOLATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIZZY DRINKS | <input type="checkbox"/> POT NOODLE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUGAR | <input type="checkbox"/> CURRY/PASTA SAUCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SANDWICH PICKLE | <input type="checkbox"/> RAZORS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DEODORANT | <input type="checkbox"/> ADVENT CALENDAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COFFEE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOXER SHORTS (NEW) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHOCOLATE SELECTION PACK | <input type="checkbox"/> TINNED SOUP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTMAS SOCKS | <input type="checkbox"/> CRISPS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PEANUT BUTTER | <input type="checkbox"/> SHAMPOO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JAM | <input type="checkbox"/> NOVELTY CHRISTMAS ITEM |