

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and the theme for this year is This is My Place. The children will be taking part in an assembly on Monday and other activities throughout the week to foster their sense of belonging and feeling connected, valued and welcomed.

Safer Internet Day 10th February

On Tuesday next week we will be marking Safer Internet Day. This is a global awareness day that encourages children, young people and adults to think carefully about how we use the online world and digital technology. It's a useful annual prompt to refresh conversations about online safety, wellbeing and responsible digital behaviour. The Theme for 2026 is *Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI*. This year's focus reflects how quickly AI and smart technologies are becoming part of children's everyday online experiences. The emphasis is on helping young people develop confidence, critical thinking and good judgement when using digital tools, rather than fear or restriction. Safer Internet Day is an opportunity for schools and parents to:

- reinforce existing online safety messages
- encourage open, age-appropriate conversations about AI and digital decision-making
- remember that online safety is an ongoing safeguarding responsibility, not a one-off lesson

Some tips for parents can be found [here](#)

TikTok

Staying on the topic of online safety, an upsetting and worrying incident happened last week when one of our pupils received inappropriate messages from an unknown person who started following their TikTok account. Please be aware that TikTok has an age restriction of 13+, so primary age pupils should not be using it. If someone joins TikTok between the ages of 13-15 it will automatically make the profile private and disable direct messaging, however young people can change the settings themselves to re-enable them or lie about their age from the beginning which does not give them any protection. There is a TikTok guide for parents [here](#). If you do allow your child to have an account, please ensure the privacy and safety settings are set up to prevent direct messaging.

Lunar New Year

Many of our families will be celebrating this festival during half term. As we won't be in school on the actual day of Lunar New Year, we are celebrating this special event on Tuesday 10th February. We are very excited to welcome a Lion Dance team to perform for the children, and we are grateful to Tingting Yang for organising the dance company's visit and to the parents who have supported this through some fundraising. We will also have a themed lunch menu which is at the end of this newsletter. Pasta and baguettes will still be available on this day as usual even though they do not appear on the special menu.

Sports results

Congratulations to our Girls football team for their 6-2 win against Cunningham Hill. Their next match is next week against Mandeville so good luck girls.

Attendance

The current whole school attendance for this academic year is 96%, and this is a decrease of 0.1% from my last newsletter. We understand that sometimes there are exceptional circumstances for requesting a leave of absence. However, some parents are still choosing to book family trips and days out during term time and these will not be authorised. Please support your child's education by not taking them out of school during term time.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility and, as you know, we take this very seriously at Alban City. Sometimes children say things to us in school which may cause us some concern, and we will always follow this up with parents. If you ever have a concern about a child's safety or wellbeing, please ask to speak to me, Mrs Carter or Miss Lord in confidence. We will always listen without judgement and provide support as needed. You can also report concerns to Hertfordshire Children's Services on 0300 123 40403 or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000, or call 999 if the child is in immediate danger or 101 for non-emergency situations.

Children's birthdays

Just a gentle reminder that we do not give out sweets, cakes or goodie bags for children's birthdays so please do not send them into school because we do not want to upset the children by not handing them out. Thank you.

Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show

This is a free exhibition for children aged 4-18. I have registered our school so that parents can submit their child's artwork online and there is no theme. The closing date is 4th March and more information can be found [here](#).

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stray

Diary Dates Spring Term 2026

- 9-13 February Children's Mental Health Week
- 10 February Safer Internet Day
- 10 February Lunar New Year celebrations
- 13 February Amber Class sharing assembly 9.00am in the theatre
- 16-20 February Half term
- 27 February Vermillion Class sharing assembly 9.00am in the theatre
- 5 March World Book Day
- 6 March Crimson Class sharing assembly 9.00am in the theatre
- 9 March Year 6 trip to Crucial Crew
- 12 March Parent Consultation meetings
- 13 March Scarlet Class sharing assembly 9.00am in the theatre
- 17 March Junior Orchestra Open Rehearsal - parents welcome
- 17 March Parent Consultation meetings
- 20 March Year 4 Viking Day
- 23 March Orchestra performing with St Albans Schools at Alban Arena (and 24th and 25th)
- 23 March Multi-faith assembly with faith leaders
- 24 March Year 5 Spring Concert 9.00am in the theatre
- 25 March Year 6 trip to RAF museum
- 26 March Reception trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
- 27 March End of term 1.30pm

Sports fixtures

10 February	Year 6 Girls football v Mandeville
24 February	Year 6 Girls and Boys football v Prae Wood
26 February	Cross country @ Mandeville
26 February	Netball match v Bowmansgreen
2 March	Netball match v St Adrians
3 March	Year 6 Boys football v St Columba's
9 March	Netball match v Camp
10 March	Year 6 Girls football v Mandeville
14 March	Netball tournament @ Samuel Ryder
19 March	Cross country @ Garden Fields TBC
19 March	Netball match v Oakwood

Celebrate
Lunar New Year
with us!

Tuesday 10th
February 2026

Chicken Chow Mein Served
With Steamed Broccoli

or

Sweet & Sour Vegetables with
Egg Fried Rice

and

Sticky Ginger & Orange
Cake

Stir.
WORLD. UNITED.



Allergen free menu

Celebrate
Lunar New Year
with us!

Tuesday
10th February 2026

Chicken Chow Mein Served
With Steamed Broccoli

or

Vegetable Fried Rice Served
With Broccoli

and

Rocket Lolly

Stir.
Let's eat, together.

