

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was great to see so many of you at our Christmas Fair last Saturday. Danielle, Lucy, Karen, Helen and the rest of the PTA committee had worked so hard in the run up to the fair and on the day itself, and I'm sure everyone would agree that their organisation skills were superb! It seemed like everyone had a lot of fun while raising an amazing £3,240 for the school too, so a huge thank you to everyone for their support, either with volunteering to run a stall, setting up and tidying up or coming along to support the event. A big thank you to Ms Dore too for her endless enthusiasm all day as group after group of children sang or played their instruments in the theatre. I couldn't have been prouder of them all.

Admissions consultation

Our consultation on reducing our admission numbers for the September 2024 Reception intake closes on Sunday. If you haven't already responded and would like to share your views, please click [here](#). The Governors have until February 28th to make a final decision, so everyone's feedback will really help them in their deliberations. Admissions are currently open for the September 2023 intake, and we are keen to attract as many families as possible to our school to demonstrate the need to maintain two forms of entry. Word of mouth and recommendations are so important, so if you are able to post a favourable review on Facebook, Google or other websites and social media sites, it would really help to spread the word about what a fantastic school and community we are!

School funding information letter

Attached to this newsletter is a letter from the St Albans Headteacher Consortium. As a group of headteachers, we would like to make parents and carers aware of the perilous state of school funding and the impact this may have on the education and provision we are able to make for our children with increasingly stretched budgets. If you feel able to raise your concerns with our local MPs we would be grateful for the support.

Christmas Toy Appeal

Thank you so much for your kind donations for the Salvation Army / PTA Toy Appeal this morning. The toys have been delivered to the Salvation Army and received with much gratitude.

Attendance

Our school attendance figure for the year is currently 95.5%. This is a drop from a fortnight ago, but we understand that there is a lot of illness so get well soon to everyone affected. Please be alert to the signs and symptoms of Strep A/ Scarlet Fever and seek urgent medical attention if you are worried about your child's health.

Dogs

We love dogs at ACS, but please remember that for health and safety reasons, dogs can only be brought into the playground if they are carried and kept off the ground at all times. Dogs should not be tied up and left unsupervised on school grounds, including outside the front of the school. If another family member or friend is collecting your child, please could you make sure they are aware of this. There was an incident at another school where a young child approached a dog that was unsupervised by its owner and took it by surprise, and sadly the dog bit the child. I would hate for this to ever happen again, so thank you for your understanding and support.

Sports results

Our sports teams have been busy playing fixtures against other schools. In football our girls lost 3-1 against Prae Wood, then went on to win 2-1 against Bowmansgreen with only 6 players. Congratulations girls! Our boys' B team lost 4-2 against Aboyne Lodge but showed some great passing moves. Our netball team has completed all of their fixtures now. Although they were unlucky not to win any matches, we are really proud of their resilience and the improvement they have shown this term.

Christmas Post Service

You will be pleased to hear that there are no mail strikes here! Our Christmas post boxes are ready in the shared areas for children to post their cards to their friends, and some Year 6 children will be our willing Christmas Postmen (and women)!

Congratulations to Year 1 for their lovely Christmas performance of Humph the Camel earlier this week. Next week we are looking forward to Reception's Nativity Play, Christmas Lunch and the Pantomime, along with a demonstration of Indian classical music from some visitors and a performance by our school orchestra in assembly. It's going to be another busy week, so enjoy the weekend!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stray

Diary dates

Date	Event	Year group	Any other info
Tuesday 13 th Dec	Nativity Play	Reception	Theatre at 9.15am
Wednesday 14 th Dec	Christmas Lunch	All	Must be pre-ordered Bring Christmas hats/accessories to wear at lunchtime
Thursday 15 th Dec	Pantomime	All	Jacket potato or pasta only for lunch
Monday 19 th Dec	Christmas Concert	Y3	Theatre at 9am
Tuesday 20 th Dec	Christmas Concert	Y2	Theatre at 9am
Wednesday 21 st Dec	End of term 1.30pm	All	Merry Christmas!