

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely start to the new school year. The children have settled in brilliantly and everyone seems very happy to be back! A particular mention must go to all our new Reception children and the children who have joined us in other year groups. You are very welcome to our school community and I hope everyone has enjoyed their first week.

The week has ended on a very sad note with the passing of our Queen. We held a special assembly this morning for children in Years 2-6 to think about her life and her service to the nation, and to recognise this moment in history as the reign of King Charles III begins. The younger children talked about it with their teachers in their classrooms to help them to understand what they are hearing about in an age appropriate way.

Alban City School's 10th birthday!

It is 10 years since the school first opened, and we will be celebrating our birthday with some special events throughout the year. The first occasion is a whole school photograph that will be taken next Thursday afternoon. Please could you ensure your child is in the correct uniform and has a school jumper or cardigan with them that day. The photograph will be available for parents to purchase and will be a lovely way to record this moment in the school's history.

Staff update

Many congratulations to Mrs Gardiner who gave birth to twin boys, Fionn and Odhrán (pronounced Finn and Oran) to her family in the summer holidays. She is tired but doing well! Mrs Smith is still undergoing treatment for her illness and we send her our best wishes and look forward to welcoming her back to work when she is ready.

European Day of Languages

We will be celebrating this day on 26th September. It is wonderful that so many languages are spoken by members of our school community. If you speak a different language at home other than English and would like to come into school to tell the children a little bit about your language and maybe teach them a few words, please let your child's class teacher know.

Building work update

The scaffolding work is now almost complete, and the roofing contractors will begin the job next week of stripping and replacing the roof. On Monday the project manager will be a special visitor to assembly to explain to the children what is happening.

School uniform

Everyone is looking very smart in their new school uniform and shiny shoes! Please can I urge you this weekend if you haven't already to name everything! We ended up with a huge amount of lost property last year, but this is easily avoided if clothing and belongings are named. Please could I remind you that our school uniform policy states "no jewellery items should be worn, with the exception of stud earrings or a wrist watch. Long hair must be tied back with a dark coloured, plain band. Brightly coloured bows, hair accessories and nail varnish are not permitted." Thank you for your support.

Phonics meeting for parents

We are holding a meeting for parents on Thursday 15th September at 9.00am in the theatre to share information with you about how we teach phonics and early reading skills, and how you can help

your child at home. The meeting will last about half an hour and everyone is welcome, although it is most suitable for parents of Reception and Key Stage 1 children, or children who are new to reading English.

Class blogs

You will receive a letter today with information specific to your child's year group and what they will be learning this term. Please don't forget to look at the class blogs which are updated at the end of each week. This is a great way to keep informed of what has been happening in your child's class this week and for teachers to share any message or updates with you.

<https://albancityschool.org.uk/class-pages/>

Google Classroom

We set homework on Google Classroom, and also use some educational apps and websites to support learning. We are always happy to provide homework on paper if you prefer, but if you don't have a computer at home we do have some available that we can loan out for free. Please speak to me if you would like more information.

I hope you have a good weekend. To members of our Hong Kong community who are celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival tomorrow, we wish you a very happy time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stray

	Diary dates	Autumn term 2022
	12th September	Clubs start
	15th September	Phonics meeting for parents in the theatre at 9am
	15th September	Whole school photograph 2.15pm
	26th September	European Day of Languages
	30th September	10 year celebration
	3rd October	Harvest Festival assembly and collection for the St Albans Foodbank
	6th October	Year 6 visit to Crucial Crew
	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