

# Alban City School PTA

## Minutes of Alban City School PTA Members Meeting

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 2.30-3.15pm

Alban City School, 7 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RR

### 1) Welcome and apologies

Mrs Stray

Kate Davies - Chair

Rachel Brown - Secretary

Samantha Northcott

Nicola Stead

Natalie Blitz

Zoe King

Erika Brown

Olga Dremova

Shelley Gamester

Nayoca Bello

Suzanne Broad

### Apologies

Sarah Todd

James McIntosh

Francheska McIntosh

### 2) Previous Minutes

- Members approved the previous minutes and these will be published on the website.

### 3) Fundraising targets for 2025/2026 - the following were proposed:

- Accelerated Reader scheme – target funds from Autumn/Winter 2025 fundraising to support this project (includes 3 year subscription and new books), the target is £5240. Mrs. Stray explained the scheme to encourage children to read and find reading enjoyable by adding popular books to the library e.g. Tom Gates books, Dogman books etc. rather than the current colour banded books. The funding would include scanners, a 3 year subscription to the online assessments and for new books. The scheme involves scanning all books, zoning the library and staff having access to online assessments that children work through. Mrs. Stray has spoken with schools that have signed up for Accelerated Reader and it has had fantastic feedback. This benefits 180 children Y4-6 and due to the small sized Y4 classes, this would also benefit Y3. Kate confirmed to pay from funds of Winter Fair if we raised the needed amount for a 3 year subscription. Kate raised that we would hope to pay for the subsequent next 3 years however we can't guarantee that. A question was raised regarding the new books and if there would be a wish list that would be circulated and could parents/carers buy off the list or donate books if they have them at home. Members held a vote and we were all in favour of this scheme.
- New Chromebooks – target funds from Spring/Summer 2026 fundraising. 1 set of 32 chrome books, estimated £7000.
- Continue to support the Pantomime contribution in December – estimated £700

- Continue to support the Year 6 Theatre trip – estimated £600
- Any extra funds will be discussed with Mrs. Stray on a case by case basis

#### 4) Payments to School

- We are very pleased and incredibly proud to announce that in just one year we have completed our £40k contribution to the school to support the playground project. Because the last payment was made over the Summer holidays, we need to shout about this through social and school email. All autumn/winter fundraising efforts will now go towards the reading scheme. The next payment to school will be made after the Winter Fair – we are heavily reliant on this being successful to raise enough money for the reading scheme.
- Contributions were also made for workshops and tech enrichment £1400 to Y1-Y6 in September 2025. Reception has now been confirmed to buy some train sets which has been agreed with Mr. Bushell.
- Contributions to Y2-Y6 workshops were made and took place over the last school year, payment of £1332.91 was made in Summer 2025.

#### 5) Events Roundup since last meeting (inc. funds raised)

- Summer Fair £5821.29 slightly down vs the year
- Y2/Y3 Disco £399.87
- Ice Lolly Sales £1344.56 over 5 weeks in June/July. We are always looking for volunteers and is a fun and easy way to help ad-hoc.
- 100 Club: 80 tickets sold, £1600 raised, £800 straight to PTA, £800 for winners. This will contribute to Autumn Winter fundraising project.
- Halloween Disco Years 4-6 – total profit £836.90. This will contribute to Autumn Winter fundraising project.
- Crazy Hair Day - £846.10. This will contribute to Autumn Winter fundraising project.
- Christmas Merchandise: £926.85 This will contribute to Autumn Winter fundraising project.
- Nearly New Uniform sales for LY 24-25 total £2915.70 (+7% v LY)

#### 5) Upcoming Events/Dates

- Winter Fair Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2-4pm. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up. Volunteers are still needed. We can't plan stalls or arrange prizes without knowing we have volunteers to support them. We are also looking for donations for our lucky dip, toyshop and teddy tombola stalls, we would really appreciate donations that your child would be happy to win. LY we made £5634.67, we would love to get close to this figure again. Question was raised regarding which classes do not have many volunteers? And could we ask those classes and class reps to ask for volunteers.
- Non-Uniform day – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November: as a thank you for bottle and cake donations for the fair, children are invited to come in non-uniform on Friday 28<sup>th</sup>
  - a. 2026 – Quiz Night, Sponsored Read, and Year R/1 Disco all to be confirmed in the Spring term

2) 100 Club - November Draw 1st prize is number 6, 2nd prize is number 17. Congratulations!

3) Uniform shop manager change - Erika and Eleonora taking over from Helen, to run the shop. A massive thank to you both and a special thank you to Helen who set up the shop initially and continued to run it over the last few years. Erika mentioned that choose it Tuesday has been very successful due to parents and carers being able to physically see the products before purchasing.

Donations box to donate used uniform is near lime class. Question raised on whether we could hold a physical shop over the Summer before Back to School? This is difficult to due to school being closed. However if we have enough volunteers could we run a stall at the summer fair?

4) AOB

- Other fundraising ideas: wear a christmas/festive item before xmas? Mrs Stray mentioned we may have too many non-uniform days as she is planning a Wear it Wild day to raise money for the charity who rescued the fox.
- Sponsored read was fairly successful last year with not a huge amount of children taking part. For next year we discussed how to raise awareness with a few ideas raised: launch this in assembly and find someone to be the face of it or can we get MC Grammar involved who is a friend of Shelley's - could he sign the winning books and/or produce a video for the school?

5) Date of next meeting