



Newsletter

Friday 8th September 2017

Welcome back to all the children and staff. I hope that everyone had a lovely summer and that the children are now ready for the busy term ahead.

Father Conaty

As you may have heard Father Conaty is currently in hospital recovering from a fall whilst on holiday in Ireland. The children have made a lovely card for him and I am sure you will join us in keeping him in your thoughts and prayers.

Ready for School

Just to remind parents that children need to be prepared for the school day – with PE kits, reading books, homework etc. I need to remind parents that earrings are not allowed in school and if your child does attend with them we will contact you to have them removed. As children represent school throughout the year, I must ask parents to make sure your child is wearing full school uniform at all times. Long hair should be tied back and sensible haircuts are expected.

School Meals

I am really disappointed with the number of children who have returned to school having packed lunch and not taking up the school meals. **Rec to Year 2 are all entitled to a Free School Meal** and it is a shame that this changes once the children attend Year 3. Research clearly shows that a hot meal is more beneficial to the child and we are very lucky here at St Alban's that we have such a variety of wonderful meals. To help parents of the children who would like to have school meals certain days, we are now going to allow children to switch between dinners and packed lunch within the week. To help us monitor this, the class teacher will take a daily lunch register so children will need to know whether they are having packed lunch or school dinner that day. This will also allow the school office and dinner staff to order and prepare the meals. **If the numbers do not increase I may not have any choice but to close the school kitchen which will have a massive impact on the structure and organisation of the school.**

School Office

Miss Myers leaves us today to move onto pastures new I am sure you will join me in wishing her well in the next chapter of her working career. Can I take this opportunity to remind parents that the school office is only manned between **8.15am and 4.15pm**. Calls received after this time will automatically go to the answering machine, and if you visit the school after this time you may not gain entry.

Parents' Evening

Parents' evening this term will be held on Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th September. Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 will be held on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th and Year 5 and Year 6 will be on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th. Please contact the school office to arrange a convenient time from **Monday 11th September**.

A separate parents' evening has been arranged for the Early Years unit (Nur & Rec) for later in the term. Details for this will follow shortly. I have to say all of our new children have settled in well.



Road Safety

As you would have noticed we have no crossing patrol now therefore please be extra vigilant whilst crossing over Westbourne Avenue. Also could I ask that parents who bring their children to school in a car to park sensibly and legally so that the children can cross safely. You might have noticed that Mr Smith has been working with the local councillors and traffic control to try and ensure the safety of the children. They are under no illusion that if any cars are parked illegally, they will be fined.

Holidays

Due to new Government Guidelines from September 2017, holidays taken within term time will be Unauthorised. We are now legally bound to notify the Local Authority of any holidays taken in term time no matter what the circumstances. If your child's attendance goes below 90% your child will then be classed as a Persistent Absentee. If your child becomes a persistent absentee then you will be legally monitored for a period of time then if their attendance does not improve you will be offered a Parenting Contract. The Governors and Mr Smith fully endorse these changes. You will notice on your child's report that we have broken down the number of school days missed if your child's attendance has been below the 96% National Average for all schools.

Clubs

Breakfast and After School club will commence on **Monday 11th September**. If you wish your child to attend please make sure that the relevant forms have been completed at the school office. If no paperwork has been received, your child will not be able to attend. Entry to breakfast club will now be via the new front entrance **between 8 -8.15am**

The following activity clubs will also commence on Monday 11th September:

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| Monday: Sewing Crafts | Year 3 & 4 |
| Monday: Basketball (Starting 25 th Sept) | Year 5 |
| Tuesday: Boys Football | Year 5 & 6 |
| Wednesday: Girls Football | Year 4 to 6 |
| Thursday: Netball Boys & Girls | Year 5 & 6 |
| Thursday: Boys Football | Year 3 & 4 |

Building Work

As you can see the building work to the school entrance has just about completed so there is no need now for any child or parent to walk directly across the car park, as we now have a secure walkway straight to the main entrance.

Website/Social Media

We will be updating these regularly which will include information about your child's class, dates, trips and also healthy school dinner menus

