



Newsletter

Friday 6th October 2017

Father Conaty

As you will all know, we received the very sad news on Thursday morning that Father Conaty had passed away. He will be a massive miss to the school and the wider community. We will keep you informed of any information that will need to be shared. I ask that you keep his family and the community in your prayers. R.I.P Father Conaty.

Year 6 will be leading a Liturgy in remembrance of Father Conaty on Monday 9th October at 10am. You are very welcome to join us, however space in the hall may be limited so we request that only one family member per child attends.

As a mark of respect, we have a book of condolence for Father Conaty in the entrance of school. Please feel free to share prayers, tributes or your memories of Father Conaty in this, as we would like to eventually present this to his family to show them just how much he meant to us all here at St Alban's.

Ofsted

I was hoping by the time this newsletter was released, I would have had the report from Ofsted. This is not the case and as soon as I receive it, I will make a copy of their findings available to all parents. What I would like to say about the inspection process is that it was very thorough, covering all aspects of school life. Although I am not allowed to discuss the outcomes of the inspection, I am allowed to say that the comments from the inspectors about the children were excellent and we should all be very proud.

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. If their attendance does not improve you will be offered a Parenting Contract. The Governors and Mr Smith fully endorse these changes. Pupils do not have the right to have time off school for family holidays in term time. If a child has a two week holiday in term time, the best attendance they can get for the year would be 95%, taking them below the National Average. If you decide to take your child on holiday and don't inform the school, your child will be classed as a "child missing in education" and authorities will be informed.

Reading Curriculum

The standards that the children need to achieve in reading have risen significantly over the last 2 years. Despite many different reading initiatives in school, we need the all the children to read at home. I will be asking the children to take a book home every night, along with a reading journal for you, as a parent, to complete. I would also like every child to have a school book bag. These are available at a discounted price from the school office. Results in school show that when a child reads everyday their reading level and their comprehension increases significantly, and this is essential for accessing the curriculum.



Shopping Evening

We are organising a shopping extravaganza for parents and the wider community on 22nd November 2017 here in school between 6pm and 7.30pm. It's an ideal opportunity to buy unique gifts. Cost of entry will be £1 which includes a cup of tea or coffee. We will be having a raffle on the evening too. We have a variety of local small businesses: Avon, candles, hair accessories, pottery, flowers, cards, vintage pictures, Christmas decorations, cakes and many more. Are you interested in being a seller rather than a buyer? Would you like to be part of the night? You can hire a table from us for £10, which will go The Friends of St Alban's Funds. If you are interested please contact Ms Parker in the school office.

Year 5 Mayor Visist

Year 5 met with the Lord Mayor last week at the Civic Centre. We received a lovely email from the councillors office, commenting on how well behaved our children were. The full letter we received is online.

Parents Evening

Early Years (Nursery & Reception) will be holding their parents' evening for the children on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th October. Please contact the school from Monday 9th October to make a convenient appointment.

Family Harvest Mass

This was due to take place on Saturday 7th October but now is being postponed until further notice.

