



St Alban's CE Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Amy Gurner

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"Educating for life in all its fullness."



Date: Monday 5th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break. I would like to welcome you all back to a new and exciting academic year and for those families who are joining us for the first time we warmly welcome you to St Alban's Primary School and look forward to working with you.

During the pandemic, Class Dojo proved to be a very useful way of communicating messages. Every system has its advantages and its flaws. A few parents have reported that they have missed messages on Class Dojo. We never want you to miss out on important information and so in addition to Class Dojo I will write a monthly newsletter. This newsletter will include important dates and collate school news. To save money on printing, this letter will be posted on the school website and we will text all families a direct link to the letter. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the school newsletter, then please inform the school office.

Parent Welcome Meetings

Over the next few weeks, your child's class teacher will be hosting a parent welcome meeting. In this meeting, they will discuss all the exciting things that your child will be learning and share ways that you can support at home. These meetings will take place at school, giving parents an opportunity to see their child's classroom (it is so nice to have parents back in school). Please let your child's teacher know if you are unable to attend the meeting and they will ensure that you receive any handouts. All meetings start at 2:20pm and will finish at 3:00pm.

Class	Date
Nursery	Friday 4 th November
Reception	Wednesday 14 th September
Year 1	Friday 16 th September
Year 2	Thursday 15 th September
Year 3	Tuesday 20 th September
Year 4	Wednesday 21 st September
Year 5	Thursday 22 nd September
Year 6	Monday 19 th September

Attendance

Good attendance is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment. At KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard.

For many years, our children's attendance has been well above national averages, between 96-98%. Last year this significantly dropped. This is mainly due to families going on holidays that were cancelled due to the pandemic. Our attendance is still well above national averages, but we must not be complacent. Next week, I will be meeting with our school governors and Rotherham local authority to discuss ways forward. We will keep you posted.

School Rules

At the beginning of term, we invest time embedding our school rules. This is to ensure that behaviour continues to be excellent so that all of our children can thrive. Our school rules are be respectful, be responsible and be ready to learn. These rules are broken down by the teacher so that all children understand what the rules look like at school in an age appropriate way.

For PE, children are expected to wear black bottoms and white tops. This is to avoid parents feeling under pressure to buy the latest football kits or sports gear. We ask that PE kit is plain with no designer labels. Please remember that our children go out in all weather conditions.

If your child has their ears pierced, then they must not wear earrings on PE days. If your child's ears are still healing, then please speak to the class teacher, who will ask you to sign a document that will state that your child will wear plasters over their earrings for an agreed period of time. The plasters must be provided by home.

Important Dates for your diary

All important dates are on our school calendar that can be found on the school website wsap.academy. Parents can subscribe to our school calendar by clicking on the 'subscribe' button next to the calendar.

Here are a few events that we organised:

Monday 12th September: Crucial Crew Y6

Tuesday 11th October: Individual School Photos

12th -14th October: Oakes Residential Y5

19th- 21st October: London Residential Y6

24th - 28th October: October Half Term

Monday 31st October: School INSET, School Closed to all Children

Tuesday 8th November: Parents Evening

Christmas Productions (more information to follow)

Tuesday 6th December: Nursery (morning), Reception (afternoon)

Wednesday 7th December: FS2-Y6 Whole School Pantomime at the Civic Theatre (Beauty and the Beast)

Thursday 8th December: Year 1 (am), Year 2 (pm)

Monday 12th December: Year 3 (am), Year 4 (pm)

Tuesday 13th December: Year 5 (am), Year 6 (pm)

Wednesday 14th December: Christmas Day (more information to follow)

Friday 16th December: School Closes for the Christmas Holidays at 1:30pm.

Over the Summer Holidays we have been busy preparing school for you all. Year 5 and 6 have new toilets and our reception class have a new sink area. Teachers have spruced up the classrooms and are excited to give you all fresh pens, pencils and books. As always, please pop into school if you have any questions.

Welcome back everyone!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Gurner

Headteacher