

# ST ALBAN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Educating for life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

## Summer Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. We are excited to share with you the vibrant happenings and achievements from our primary school.

As we can start to enjoy the summer weather, we kindly request your support in ensuring the well-being and sun safety of our students. Please remember to send your child to school with sunscreen and a hat, especially on days when the sun is particularly strong.

## Music Festival

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June - 1:30pm**

This is for children who have music lessons in school with Rotherham Music and attend performing arts (Glee) club. Please check with your child that they are participating.

This is a chance for our talented students to showcase their musical talents. To ensure the success of this event, we kindly request your support in encouraging your child to practice the music given by their teacher.

Ticket Price - £5 (includes a hot drink and sweet treat)

Tickets can be bought on School Money - Shop.

Thank you for your support.

Your PTA



## Foundation and Key Stage 1 Parent Meeting- Top tips for listening to your child read at home

As you may have noticed, we are slightly obsessed with teaching every child the invaluable skill of reading. In line with our commitment to fostering strong reading skills, we would like to invite you to a special event focused on sharing our top tips for listening to your child read at home.

During this session, we will collect your child from class, as we delve into effective strategies that we have found to be successful. Together, we will explore what works best when it comes to supporting your child's reading progress.

Details of the event are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2:15-3:00pm

Venue: School Hall

## KS2 Reading Comprehension

Mr Frelich will be leading a similar parents meeting for KS2 parents. The meeting will focus on important comprehension skills that children learn in KS2. All parents welcome!

Date: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2:15-3:00pm

Venue: School Hall

## PE Kit Vote

Earlier this year, we introduced a new PE kit protocol, where children came to school wearing their PE kit. While this change received mixed feedback from parents, we value your opinions and want to find a solution that works best for everyone.

To address the issue regarding PE kits, we would like to invite parents to participate in a voting process. Your input will help us determine the preferred approach moving forward. We have outlined two options for you to consider:

### Option 1:

Children bring their PE kit in a named bag and leave it at school. It is the responsibility of both the child and parent to ensure the kit is regularly taken home for washing. Teachers will empty the cloakrooms every half term to facilitate this process.

### Option 2:

Children come to school wearing their PE kits.

To gather your votes, Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Jepson will be sending out a voting poll within the next two weeks. Your vote truly counts and will play a significant role in shaping our PE kit protocol.

Thank you for your continued support and active involvement in shaping our school policies.

Look out for the poll on Class Dojo!

## Under the spotlight: Geography



Miss Widdop is our geography lead. Over the last few years, she has developed structures that ensure that all of our children leave St Alban's with a secure geography knowledge.

You may have noticed that in the year 2-6 classrooms, there is a huge world map (which is actually a shower curtain).

Children encounter this same map (shower curtain) of the world every year. This is so that children become increasingly familiar with the resource and so that new learning is not hindered by having to simultaneously interpret a different map. Children are provided with a world map in Year Three which, like scholars, they return to and build on each year with new learning. Ask your child what they have added to their world map this year.

At St.Alban's, we also use DigiMaps, an award-winning online mapping service that supports the teaching of geography. We believe that the use and study of maps is central to geographical learning and understanding. This ensures that children have a good spatial awareness and are very secure in their ability to locate the places they are studying. In recent years, there has been a significant shift in the way maps are used and accessed in everyday life, as many people are moving away from paper maps and instead using digital data on computers and mobile phones. We therefore think it is essential that students are able to access a variety of maps, including digital mapping, to prepare them for later life in today's world.

## Geography continued...

### Field work beyond the locality

Not only do our children regularly explore the local area but also, we have planned opportunities for pupils to apply field work skills on excursions beyond the locality. We aim to develop the cultural capital of our students by providing them with ample hands-on experiences both near and afar. In Y4, children travel to Castleton, where they explore the incredible caverns there. This trip is mainly field work based and so, students will use many geographical skills such as map reading, using compasses and devising their own maps.

Also, our Y6 children experience a trip to London. Again, pupils are provided with opportunities to utilise field work skills during the excursion. Furthermore, this first-hand experience will help children to compare life in the capital city with that in a relatively small, northern town.



Year 2 learning about the 7 continents of the world.

## A HUGE thank you from the PTA



We have some exciting news to share with you this week! Thanks to your incredible support at PTA events, we have received Toni's, wonderful listening stations, for our nursery, reception, and year 1 and 2 classrooms. These listening stations will provide our students with the opportunity to enjoy their favourite stories during wet plays or quiet reading time.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the parents who have contributed to the PTA events, making it possible for us to acquire these valuable resources. On behalf of the children, we want to say a heartfelt THANK YOU for your generous support.

We are thrilled to share that we are currently in the process of designing a new outside quiet area for our KS2 students. The PTA has graciously agreed to fund this project, which will provide a serene and comfortable space for our older students to relax and engage in quiet activities.

### **Dancing in the corridors**

Over the past three weeks, our corridors have been filled with uplifting gospel music. And now, we have transitioned to exploring the world of jazz. Through this musical journey, our goal is to familiarise our children with different genres of music and broaden their musical horizons.

Rest assured, despite our newfound musical enthusiasm, we are still maintaining our commitment to orderly behaviour in the corridors. We continue to encourage our students to walk smartly and responsibly. However, you may notice a slight swing in our step as we embrace the rhythms and melodies of these captivating genres!

By exposing our children to a diverse range of musical styles, we aim to ignite their curiosity, and expand their appreciation for music.

## Important Dates

Date and Time	Event
June	Local History Week All children will be taking part with this at school.
5 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET - School closed to all children
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 selling toast (reception-y6) 30p a slice or 50p for 2 slices
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Mosque Visit
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5&6 Tennis Festival
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 selling toast
13 <sup>th</sup> June, 1:30pm	KS2 Music Concert
14 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 selling toast
16 <sup>th</sup> June, 9:00am	KS2 Sports Day (weather permitting)
20 <sup>th</sup> June, 2:15pm	Foundation and KS1 Reading Parent Meeting
21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Y4 Castleton Residential
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Prom
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Y4 Orienteering Final
27 <sup>th</sup> June, 2:15pm	KS2 Parent Reading Comprehension Meeting
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Tennis Festival
29 <sup>th</sup> June, 2:00pm	Y4 Oakes Parents Meeting
20 <sup>th</sup> June, 1:30pm	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
3 <sup>rd</sup> July, 9:00am	Foundation and KS1 Sports Day (please note the change in date for KS1)- weather permitting
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School Transition Day All children to move up to the next class.
12 <sup>th</sup> July	School Disco Reception/KS1 (3:00-4:15pm) KS2 (4:30-5:45pm)
17 <sup>th</sup> July, 3:00-5:00pm	Summer Fair
21 <sup>st</sup> July	School Closes at 1:30pm for all pupils