



St Albert the Great Catholic Primary School

Acorn Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP3 8DW

Tel: 01442 264835 e-mail: admin@albertthegreat.herts.sch.uk

www.albertthegreat.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs K Little



NEWSLETTER

3rd November, 2016

Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Small (mum of Zac in FS2) has joined our staff and will be working alongside Mrs Tompkins in the school office. Mrs Small is our new Office Administrator.

I am sorry to inform you that Mrs Michaels will be leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Michaels has been at St Albert the Great school since September 2003 and we will be very sorry to see her go. I am in the process of recruiting another teacher to work alongside Mrs Ansell in the Year 1 classroom from January 2017.

As you know, Mrs Coot (Breakfast Club and FS1) has been known as both Mrs Rivers and Mrs Coot. For clarity, we will be referring to her as Mrs Rivers.

Diocesan Inspection

Our Diocesan Inspection took place on Wednesday 1st November. Thank you to all of the families who managed to return the parental questionnaires – we had just over 100 returned which is a great response. The report will hopefully be made available within the next 3 weeks and I will be able to report on the outcomes once the official report is published.

Superhero Wow Day

We were absolutely delighted to welcome Lesley Williams back to our school on Monday. Lesley ran a series of workshops with all of the classes during the day. At the end of the day, we held a sharing assembly so that parents could see some of the activities the children took part in. The 'crazy dancing' was a very small part of what they actually learned from the day and from the applause and laughter, I am sure you enjoyed watching the dancing. Through a variety of stories, activities and sign language, Lesley reinforced some really key messages about kindness, respect, being good listeners and most importantly of all, using their own 'superhero' powers to always do their best. This has a direct link with our focus on encouraging all of our children to be resilient, risk-taking, confident learners – learners whose response is 'I don't know that YET' if they are asked something they don't know, rather than 'I don't know'. In the classrooms, key skills such as cooperation, questioning, making links, managing distractions, perseverance, absorption and meta-learning are reinforced in every lesson. These are our 'Learning Powers' which were launched last year and underpin our teaching and learning priorities. These skills, alongside our focus on Gospel values, are what support our children in becoming life-long learners with a positive, 'can-do' attitude.

Children's Fundraising

The School Council would like to thank you for supporting our Harvest charities. This morning, Emmanuela Attakpah, Ashley Harding and Faye Lawrence accompanied me to the DENS foodbank where we took all of your harvest donations. I am also delighted to say that we raised £170.30 with our 'Brighten Up Harvest' donations. As we come to the end of the Year of Mercy, we are very grateful for your continued and generous acts of charity.



'The more I learn about the world in which I live, the closer I grow to God.'



Foundation Stage 'Stay and Play'

Today the Nursery and Reception classes had a 'Stay and Play' session for the children and their parents. The Nursery children took their parents out to our Forest School and the Reception children had a Diwali themed session. Some of the positive comments include: 'loved the opportunity to see what my child has been learning and the environment that he tells me about', 'I am so pleased that we were invited in to school to see what my daughter and her friends are learning', 'interesting, interacting well with their peers', 'great learning environment'. We value the support and partnership we have with our parents. I would like to encourage all parents to record their positive feedback about our school and they can do this via the Ofsted Parent View website at www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk. You need to choose the 'give your views' tab which will ask you to register before you can complete the survey. You will get an e-mail back from them with your log in details and then it shouldn't take more than 10 minutes to complete the survey.

KS2 Cinema Trip

On Thursday 10th November, the KS2 children will walk over to Jarman Park to see the film 'The Princess and the Frog'. As part of the 2016 'Into Film Festival', local cinemas offer free screenings of a wide variety of films that cover many different issues and themes. This year, we have chosen a film in the category 'Black Star'. Black Star is the British Film Institute's Autumn 2016 celebration of the range, versatility and power of black actors on film and TV that is taking place nationwide. The Princess and the Frog was the first Disney film to feature an African-American princess and in this updated fairy tale that is set in New Orleans, themes about growing up, storytelling and community are explored. There are explicit links to English, Literacy, Music and PSHE as well as opportunities for the children to engage with literature, storytelling, folk and fairy tales, North American countries, arts and media, music, magic, health and wellbeing, and love and friendship. I am sure the children will find this a valuable and memorable experience.

Remembrance

We will be observing a minute of silence on Friday 11th November to remember those who have given their lives in the service of others. We are also selling poppies in the school if you wish to send in a donation.

Foundation Stage Sponsored Scoot/Bike ride

On Friday 11th November our Nursery and Reception children will also be taking part in a sponsored scooter/bike ride to raise funds to provide more bikes (including the challenging 'balance bikes') and outdoor waterproofs for their Forest School.

Anti-bullying Week

Monday 14th November marks the start of anti-bullying week. Lesley was due to come back to our school to lead the children in a series of workshops but has unfortunately had to cancel due to a bereavement. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family at this time. We will be addressing aspects of the anti-bullying theme on lessons, assemblies and collective worship during the week.

Patronal Feast

Fr Derek will be celebrating Mass on Tuesday 15th November at 11:00 am, the feast of St Albert the Great, patron saint of our school. Parents and friends are all very welcome to join us.

World Premature Birth Day

On Thursday 17th November we will hold a cake sale with all proceeds going to the Watford Hospital premature baby unit. We would be very grateful for any donations of cakes which can be brought in to school that morning. If you wish your child to have a cake, please send in a donation. All cakes will be priced at 50p and the children will be able to purchase them at break time.

Children in Need Day

Friday 18th November is the 'Children in Need' day. This year's theme is 'Spotacular' and the School Council is inviting children to come dressed in spots in exchange for a donation to the BBC Children in Need Appeal. Spotty dresses, spotty ties or even spotty faces are all welcome and they will make a massive difference to the lives of disadvantaged children across the UK. This is a non-uniform day for those who wish to participate.

School Admissions September 2017

I will be holding 2 sessions for prospective Reception parents to visit the school. The first is on Tuesday 22nd November at 9:30 and the second is on Thursday 8th December at 2:00. The admissions process is now open and anyone making application is reminded that school forms need to be returned to St Albert the Great and that an online application to Hertfordshire County Council at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions is also required. Fr Derek will arrange times for the signing of forms for parishioners and the dates will be announced in the parish newsletter.



'The more I learn about the world in which I live, the closer I grow to God.'



Recent Sports News and Success

Year 3 went to a Change4Life sports festival at Cavendish School on Wednesday afternoon. They learned how to lead a healthier lifestyle by taking part in a variety of activities.

District Cross Country competition:

Although we haven't been informed of the final results yet, Mrs Lulham was delighted with the performances of all the children at yesterday's district Cross Country competition which took place at Adeyfield School. The children competed against other talented Year 5 and 6 runners on a 2 km course. She was especially impressed with two Year 5 pupils – Billy Redman and Beth Irvine, who showed outstanding stamina to finish first for our school teams. Billy was placed 10th overall in the boys race while Beth finished in 23rd place. Mrs Lulham will be uploading photographs to the school website next week. Our Cross Country team was made up of Seb Ndreu, Joshua Brooks, Liam Daly, Kunashe Sithole, Billy Redman, Luis Streets, Natalie Krezel, Freya Goad, Emmanuela Attakpah, Ann-Marie Chijuka, Bonnie Mander, Beth Irvine and Madelyn Smith. Thank you to all of their parents for supporting this event.

Dates for the second half of the Autumn Term:

15.11.16	Mass for St Albert the Great feast day 11:00
17.11.16	World Premature Birth day (cake sale)
18.11.16	Children in Need day. Non-uniform theme of spots in exchange for a donation
22.11.16	Show potential Reception parents round the school 9:30
28.11.16	Nasal Flu Vaccination for Years 1, 2 & 3 Grandparents' Day, 1:30-3:00
1.12.16	Advent Service 2:30 pm
5.12.16	Occasional Day (no school)
7.12.16	Westminster Advent Service (details to follow)
8.12.16	Show potential Reception parents round the school 2:00
9.12.16	Christmas Fair 3:15-6:00
13.12.16	Pantomime in St Albans (Rec-Yr 6) 1:30-4:30
16.12.16	Foundation Stage Nativity (morning – time t.b.c)
16.12.16	KS1 (Year 1 and 2) Nativity (afternoon – time t.b.c)
19.12.16	Children's Christmas Lunch
20.12.16	Mr Marvel in to entertain FS1 at 10:30
21.12.16	Term Ends 1:30 pm

Bags of Help

Please remember to encourage your friends and family to vote for our Wildwood Den project at our local Tesco store. Voting finishes on 13th November.

Kind regards,

Mrs K Little
Headteacher



'The more I learn about the world in which I live, the closer I grow to God.'

