



19th October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems almost impossible that we are now at the end of the first half term of this academic year. The past seven weeks have flown by with Alban being as alive as ever.

Senior members of staff and I have recently spent time visiting lessons taught by our colleagues. It has been inspiring to witness the quality of what is taking place throughout the school and be assured that there has been no drop in the standard of teaching and learning that is occurring day-by-day.

What happens in the classrooms during a normal day is, of course, the backbone of the provision at Alban. However, we are always keen to add to the experiences afforded our pupils in other ways.

Staff contributions to the extra-curricular life of the school continues at strength. The programme of lunchtime and after-school clubs is now fully up and running. This includes the early stages of our next production, 'Oliver!' following the after-school showing of the film that was attended by a very large audience sustained with what seemed like an endless supply of popcorn, hot dogs and ice cream.

Residential trips have now all been booked and allocations made for the visits to Norfolk (Year 5), Normandy (Year 6) and Blue Peris, North Wales (Years 7 and 8). Almost half the pupils in the school will be involved in these trips later in the year.

Congratulations to Mrs Garner-Higgins on qualifying as a Forest School Leader. Over the coming months groups of Year 5 pupils will be participating in the exciting activities, both on and off-site, that can now be offered as a result of this.

With so many of our pupils looking to transfer to secondary and upper schools next year, a total of eleven transition assemblies were held by different schools and for different age group audiences. I trust that these, together with open evenings and daytime visits, will have aided your thinking as to the next step to be taken for your son or daughter's schooling.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that the deadline for applications is 31st October. For most this will have been done on-line. However, applications for our Year 7 pupils need to be made on the paper form. Please ensure that these are sent direct to Bedford Borough as there will not be time to redirect them if they come in to school.

One of the bonuses from the transition process were the Team Challenges run by staff and students from Biddenham Upper School. All pupils in Key Stage 3 were organised into groups and responded to a range of tasks posed them; Year 6 took part in a similar, but separate activity. From their performances a Key Stage 3 team and a Year 6 team went forward to compete against other schools in the finals that were held at Biddenham Upper School. I am thrilled to be able to tell you that both teams performed brilliantly and won their respective competitions. Well done to all involved!

During Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, Year 8 and Year 7 were respectively off timetable. This allowed all our Key Stage 3 pupils to participate in an Enterprise Day giving them the chance to gain some insight in the demands of business. We are very



Unity CEMAT



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grateful to Mrs Aylett from 'All About Business' for providing this valuable and enjoyable experience.

While the weather in September was not so good generally, we were extremely fortunate and our Fun Run took place under a blue sky and in reasonable warmth. As always, it was a very positive experience with pupils and staff enjoying the opportunity to mix as one community. Those judging the fancy dress costumes had a really difficult task as a great deal of effort had been made by so many. Fortunately, a good number of prizes were on hand to reward the many deserving wearers of the costumes.

Sponsor money has come in steadily and I am delighted to be able to report that over £2600 has been collected so far. You will recall that half of the money is to go to Macmillan. This will be added to the takings of the coffee morning and cakes sales that have also taken place in school. As a result, we will be joined in our Fun Run assembly by a representative from Macmillan so that they can receive a cheque for £1750. Macmillan have informed us that over the years, events held in school by both pupils and staff will have totalled £5000; an amazing achievement I'm sure you will agree.

The Friends of Alban recently held their AGM. They continue to be a fully committed and enthusiastic group who look to support the school and add to what the school can provide to pupils. If you were unable to attend, but are willing to join them please feel free to contact the Chair, Clare Brooks, via the school.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving services were lovely events and gave the school community the opportunity to think about both the produce we benefit from and those people in different parts of the world who are in great need for many different reasons. The services were beautifully led by readers, musicians and a magnificent choir of seventy-five. The remainder of the school responded well to these inputs and were able to participate in an uplifting occasion. £175 was raised from the collection and has been sent to the Bishop of St Albans to assist people in the Philippines and the Caribbean.

May I thank you all for your generosity in supporting both the Fun Run and the Harvest Appeals.

Finally, a reminder that on the return to school after the half term break winter uniform should be worn. This means that a white shirt and Alban tie is to be worn and not the light blue polo shirt. If desired, navy blue jumpers (or cardigans) embossed with the school badge should be worn over this. We have always believed that school uniform plays an important role in the ethos and standards of the school. Please can I ask for your cooperation in ensuring that pupils comply with the uniform policy and, in particular, that girls wear skirts of a sensible (knee) length or tailored trousers.

I trust that the half term break will give pupils the opportunity to reinvigorate themselves and look forward to working with them, and you, in the weeks to follow.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Chipperton
Headteacher



Healthy Schools



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