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Headteacher: Mrs C Yeoman

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and exciting eight-week half term, there is so much to celebrate and reflect on.

Learning Highlights

Year 5 and 6 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their Forest School sessions, learning new skills and connecting with nature. Children in Years 1 to 4 welcomed parents and carers into school for our first English Café sessions – thank you to everyone who joined us. There will be more sessions for other year groups after half term.

Year 5 and 6 also had a wonderful visit to Beamish, bringing their history topics to life.

Year 4's residential was enjoyed by many – a big thank you to the staff who supported the trip.

Our OPAL play continues to evolve, helping children enjoy creative and active playtimes. We also celebrated their hard work with a fun-filled Purple Treat afternoon.

It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we are so proud of everything our pupils have achieved.

Christmas Fayre and Festive Events

We are delighted to announce that our Christmas Fayre will return this year on Thursday 11th December in the school hall.

After listening to your feedback, we know how special this event is to our school community. The evening will include a tombola, raffle with festive hampers, carol performances by our pupils, craft stalls, and delicious cakes and treats.

If you would like to support the event or join our new Parent Teacher Association (PTA), please contact Mrs Hill, who is coordinating the Fayre. We welcome volunteers to help with stalls, donations, or general assistance on the day.

Nursery and Reception Drop-Off Reminder

After half term, Nursery and Reception children will be dropped off at the wooden gate to support their transition into school.

We also ask Nursery parents to ensure children do not play with the bikes at the end of the day during pick-up, to help keep everyone safe.

School Meals on Arbor

After half term, please remember to manually select your child's meal choices each week on Arbor, as repeating orders are no longer available.

Meal choices must be submitted by Wednesday lunchtime each week so the kitchen can order ingredients on time. Even if your child has a packed lunch, please complete the meal choice form on Arbor. If you experience any issues, please contact the school office for support.

Looking Ahead to Next Term

Next term promises more exciting opportunities for our pupils.

We are introducing LEGO League for Key Stage 2 and will be working with the Royal Shakespeare Company to bring drama to life in our classrooms.

Extracurricular clubs are being reviewed and updated to ensure a wide range of fun and enriching activities.

We will also be seeking parent feedback to ensure we are listening and acting on your suggestions.

Our school blog continues to be updated weekly, so please take a look to see all the wonderful things happening across school.

We are also introducing Tapestry into EYFS and Year 1 as a communication tool, with plans to roll this out further across the school in the coming year.

Our School Identity

We are very excited to be revealing our new school mission, prayer and badge soon.

This will be developed in consultation with pupils, parents, carers, our parish, and the wider community. As we currently have two badges, we aim to unite as one St Alban's family, proud to share a single identity, purpose and mission.

Parent Code of Conduct

A gentle reminder that our Parent Code of Conduct is available on the school website.

We ask all members of our community to always maintain respectful and positive communication. Defamatory, offensive, or derogatory comments about the school, pupils, parents, or staff on social media will not be tolerated.

Thank you for your ongoing support, kindness, and cooperation.

Upcoming Dates

- English Café – Year 5: 6th November
- English Café – Year 6: 13th November
- English Café – Reception: 20th November
- Nursery Café: 27th November
- OPAL Parent and Carer Play Afternoon: Thursday 20th November, 2.30pm
- Christmas Fayre: Thursday 11th December, 3.30pm

Have a wonderful and restful half term break.

Warm regards,

Mrs Yeoman