



St Albert's Primary School Newsletter

January 2017

Happy New Year to all of you. Wishing you peace and prosperity in 2017.

Happy Year of the Rooster to our families from the Chinese community. We celebrated this at a special assembly last week!

As usual there are many exciting events and experiences planned for your children this term. We know that you will continue to support them with all of their learning at home.

There are also a number of other important issues that I wish to point out to you and ask for your support.



This sessions Christmas events were outstanding. Our Fayre raised almost £900 to be spend on your children. We gave £500 and 12 boxes of food to the city mission. Thank you so much for your support.

Communication and Sharing Information

With the support of some of you and the parent council we are looking to improve on the way we report to you and share information about your child's learning and the wider school focus. Attached to this newsletter you will find a 'learning story' for your child's class. This tells you what your child will be learning and how you can help them at home. At the end of the term we will send out an evaluation on how the class have engaged with their learning.

Some of our parent council and, hopefully, some of you will be working on a more purposeful and improved written report for you. It is hoped that we can provide you with a clearer picture of your child as a learner.

Our principal teachers continue to monitor homework and we are hoping you can see a difference in your child's approach and the correction of set tasks.

Social Cohesion and Inclusion

I am absolutely delighted to be able to share good news with you. At a recent parliamentary meeting the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon praised St Albert's saying 'It is a fantastic school'. That we are an example of how to celebrate diversity and that it 'lifts your heart to see'. This was passed to me by our Archbishop who also admires how well our community works together in faith.

Respect

Following these wonderful comments we will be taking further steps to ensure our children have absolute respect for themselves and others. Our children should understand the differences between faith and culture and also that people from the same faith can have different cultural experiences. We will also ensure we celebrate and learn about all faiths. This is the year of Heritage in Scotland and through learning we hope all our children come to understand that Scotland is full of many faiths and cultures....each of them deserving the highest respect.

Staffing

Staffing continues to be a challenge for the Education Sector. You may have read in the papers that there is a shortage of teachers. While we have had some challenges and a high turnover we have managed to sustain a full staff since August. There are more changes on the way. Mr Church has been offered a well-deserved temporary promotion in St Anne's Primary school. We are all delighted for him and will miss him and he should return to school in September unless someone else snaps him up. We have identified a teacher that we hope will replace him.

Jacqueline McLaughlin is our excellent new temporary teacher joining us full time in P6. As discussed with the parent council our Quality Assurance systems ensure that the children have the very highest standards of education here at St Albert's.

Uniform

The pupils who are wearing the uniform look absolutely fantastic and are very proud how smartly they represent our school. Following discussions with parents and pupils it has been decided that we will send uniform slips home when children are not wearing the proper school clothing. This includes a PE kit. If your child has more than two slips you will be asked to come up to a meeting to discuss how we can support you with the uniform.

As a school we agreed to take this forward and as a school we will support each other in making sure our children have what they need.

We have tried to keep the clothing as cheap as possible, however Mrs Ali in the office has agreed to organise a 'uniform club' where you can pay up the cost of a uniform either for now or for the summer. Details attached.

Attendance

Please make sure your child is here, every day, on time and ready to learn. Also if you and your family are considering taking an extended break please come and discuss this with me. We have strong evidence to suggest that extended breaks are directly affecting children's attainment and achievement in school.

Important dates

Thursday 9 th February	Whole school open afternoon celebration of pupil work in Expressive Arts. You are all invited.
Friday 10 th February – Wednesday 15 th February	School Holiday and In service. Reopen on Thursday 16 th
Tuesday 22 nd February	International Mother Language Day.
Monday 27 th February onwards	Fair trade Fortnight
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day (nonfiction focus)
Monday 13 th March onwards	Whole school Science Week
Thursday 16 th March	P4 Assembly
Monday 20 th March	International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination & World Poetry Day
Thursday 30 th March	P1 Assembly
Friday 31 st March	School close at 2.30pm for Easter holidays

Parent Council/Parental Involvement

Thank you to the Parent Council for their continued support of the school. Over the coming weeks they will be looking at reporting, pupils equity fund and planning a Mela in May. There will be an opportunity for you to help/volunteer for any of these. We have plans and all of your children benefit when parents are involved.

Next we will resume our Maths workshops. Statistics show that attainment is raised when parents engage with school. We look forward to welcoming you to these.

Thank you to all our parent volunteers and storytellers.

Newsletters/Website/School App We will continue to issue school and class newsletters throughout the year, this is one way that we can keep you informed. Using our school app you should be able to see translated versions of our newsletter. **To download search for 'mySchoolApp' in your app store. Open the app and enter 'St Alberts Primary School' then register your details and you are ready to go.**



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