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## Head's lines...

What a lovely start to the school year we have had. The children are all now settled into their classes and enjoying their learning. We have been getting to know the new children and their families who joined us this year and are pleased that you have joined our school community and hope you already feel 'at home'. The Year 5 children have been supporting their buddies over lunchtimes and out on the playground and we have seen lots of positive relationships starting to develop.

In a few weeks time we will have our parent consultation sessions and a chance for you to have those important individual conversations with the teaching staff. More details on how to sign up for a slot will come out next week.

I received a very welcome cheque for £4,500 from Sandra Teague on behalf of the PA just before the AGM this week. School is so grateful for this support which will go towards updating the technology in the classrooms and improving the outside environments. I am also pleased that the committee are in place and full of enthusiasm and ideas to take forward for this year. Your support and offers of help at all their events makes a real difference.

Finally I wanted to remind you all that our library is open for half an hour before and after school each day and staffed by a team of parent volunteers who are keen to help the children choose and change their books. Please do come in and select a book to take home or share a story together with your child.

Best wishes, Sharon Barton

### Important Dates

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 17th October     | PA Cake/Uniform sale    |
| 23rd October     | Parent Consultations    |
| 24th October     | Parent Consultations    |
| 25th October     | Non-Uniform Day         |
| 28th Oct-1st Nov | Half-Term               |
| 4th November     | INSET                   |
| 9th November     | PA Evening Social       |
| 26th, 27th Nov   | Yrs 1 and 2 Performance |
| 7th December     | Christmas Fair          |
| 17th December    | EYFS Performance        |
| 19th December    | Christmas Dinner        |
| 19th December    | Nursery End of Term     |
| 20th December    | End of Term             |

## Clay Club Celebration



The children of Clay Club worked very hard to complete a project which was entered into the Maltings Art Prize at the St Albans Museum. A few children were able to attend the awards ceremony with their parents and very proudly accepted a special award for their group piece. Well done.



We are very pleased to report that we now have new 20mph signs and enforced speed limit along Camp Road. We would also like to remind parents that for safety reasons, could everyone park sensibly at drop-off and pick-up. Cars are sometimes parked on double yellow lines and on corners which impacts the view for cars and pedestrians trying to cross safely. Also, to keep in line with our "eco-commitment" could we remind parents to turn off their vehicles to help the health of our children and the environment. Please note, there is still a vacancy for a "lollipop person" if you, or someone you know is interested, please contact the school office for more information. This could be on a job share or relief basis.

INSET DAYS for 2019/2020 A reminder that Half-Term is 28th Oct-1st Nov. There will be INSET days on Monday 4th November 2019, Monday 6th January & Friday 26th June 2020. We will finish for the summer on Friday 17th July 2020.

## Year 6 Distraction Training



Year 6 spent a morning recently taking part in "Distraction Training" sessions. The sessions were split into 2 parts. Firstly, after watching a video about the dangers of walking and talking on your mobile phone emphasis was then put on the importance of being able to look and listen whilst walking. Abigail said, "I really liked the road-signs game and it was fun being able to bring our phones into school, even though we weren't really allowed to touch them." In the second session they were put into groups so that they could make posters showing what they had learned.



## Schools in Bloom

A big thank you to all of our lovely volunteers who run Greenspace and keep our school looking beautiful. Once again, this year we entered the "Schools in Bloom" competition. Four children from Years 3 and 4, who participated in Greenspace last year, were able to attend the awards and bring home the top prize for "vibrant veg" and 2nd prize in the "fantastic flowers" category. The children were a credit to the school on the night and William said, "I loved getting the awards, eating the sandwiches and prawns! We had the best time!"

## Basketball skills

What a great day 10 of our Year 6 girls had recently at a basketball training session held at the University of Hertfordshire. The coaches were all professional basketball players who provided a circuit of skills sessions and then some friendly matches to put these skills to the test. The girls all came back very enthusiastic and full of smiles. Sophia said, It was my first time going to a basketball tournament. I learnt that it's not about winning, it's just about having fun!"



### Music Lessons in School

We are delighted to have a contract with Hertfordshire Music Services so that children may have instrument lessons as a paid for extra-curricular activity. We currently have teachers for piano and guitar. These lessons are very popular and spaces are limited. We are currently operating a waiting list, please contact the school office if you would like to add your child's name.

### Recorder

Children in Years 2 and 3 have been enjoying recorder lessons with Mrs Du Plessis on a regular basis. There is now an opportunity for children in Year 4 to join a lunch time club so that, if they are interested, they can continue their learning. Currently there is a small group practicing on a Tuesday in the hall at 1pm.