Albany Primary School

Newsletter – July 2025

'Develop every child, every day in every possible way'

Please find a copy of our latest newsletter updating you on the latest news at Albany. As we approach the end of the academic year I wanted to provide you with some updates.

Mr Howlett

Staffing Updates

Next week we will be saying goodbye to Mr Walker after over 9 years as Deputy Headteacher at Albany. I'm sure everyone would like to wish Mr Walker a very happy, healthy retirement. Mrs Mullane will be taking on the role of Deputy Headteacher from September.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Sultana (Nursery), Miss Waldron (Year 3/6), Miss Lee (Year 5) and Mrs Lewis (Wellbeing support) this summer.

We will be welcoming Miss Hutchings who will be teaching in year 6 from September and also Mrs Lalik who will be joining the team as a teaching assistant.

Rocksteady Music & Music Sessions

Since September pupils have had the opportunity to access music lessons from an external provider 'Rocksteady'. We continue to offer our more traditional peripatetic music lessons such as violin, guitar, drums but this has also introduced a rock band approach.

The children have enjoyed this and showcased their skills in a special performance assembly and parents attended to watch the performances.

Year 6 News/ Leavers

We will be also be saying goodbye to our year 6 pupils next week. It has been wonderful to see the children grow in confidence during their time at Albany. They have had a very busy final year at Albany including Swimming lessons, cycling, a residential visit to Storey Arms and much more.

'Always Albany'

We would like to wish them all the best on their next learning adventure in high schools across the city. We are very proud of you all!

Children making a difference

Pupil Voice groups have been running differently this year. Following a review we linked them to learning areas and the aim will be that they will support areas for improvement and organise events linked to different areas of learning. Health & Wellbeing team planned activities for Children's Mental Health week and Humanities team are organised activities for Refugee Week in June. The Expressive Arts team planned Happiness Day which we enjoyed last week.

Celebrating Success

We have enjoyed receiving photographs and information about children's successes beyond the school and displaying them in our corridor. We have so many talented pupils across the school including footballers representing Cardiff City and South Wales, gymnasts, dancers, a Welsh Fencing Champion and many other success stories. If you want to share these with us please email the school or send pictures in with your child. 'Albany can do it'.

Eid Celebrations & Summer BBQ

We have recently enjoyed our community Eid Celebration and also our Summer BBQ. These events were great successes. At Albany we are always delighted to have these events and be joined by our school community. We raised a total of £1081.86 at the Eid celebration and £647.82 at the BBQ. Thank you very much for supporting these events.

School Building Update

As you are aware we have had some challenges with our building over the past few years. I have worked closely with the schools Governing Body, Local Authority and we have also discussed concerns directly with the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Education – some year children spoke very openly about their thoughts on scaffolding and other issues. I'm pleased to inform you that there will be some work commencing at the on the weekend and throughout the summer holiday. The initial work must be completed when school is closed. Further work will continue next year to get Albany back in the condition your children deserve.

Sports Day

We really enjoyed our annual sports day. Children in the Foundation Phase participated in a number of sporting challenges on the school playground.

Years 3-6 compete in different events at Roath Rec. There were some great performances on show and a wonderful atmosphere, it was great to see so many family members supporting the children.

This years winning house was Dyfed – **CONGRATULATIONS DYFED!**

Remaining INSET Days 2024-25

Monday 21st July 2025

School of Sanctuary Award

The week beginning 16th June was Refugee Week, this year the focus was on 'community'. Refugee week began with PS3 attending a 'Day of Welcome' workshop.

During the week the One World Choir sang for the children and five of the children on the humanities team met with the Schools of Sanctuary accreditation team to present and discuss how Albany ensures all children feel welcomed, safe and valued, they also enjoyed a tour of the school and a presentation delivered by Mrs. Simmonds and Mrs. Mullane.

We are delighted to have been recognized as a School of Sanctuary. The team that visited said that ***'The school came across as being a lovely, welcoming school and that the children were an absolute pleasure to meet'.***

School Attendance

Improving school attendance is a priority area for us this year. If your child is not able to attend school please contact us on the first day of absence and let us know why your child is not able to attend.

The school is legally obliged to follow up on absences and will be calling to follow up any absences.

Currently our overall school attendance has improved slightly and is above 92% which is an improvement from last year. This is still significantly below where we would like it to be and also our pre-pandemic level of 94%.

Some points to think about....

90% attendance sounds quite high but means that on average the child misses one day off school every 2 weeks.

80% attendance is equivalent to one day off per week.

It is also important that children arrive on time for school. A child who arrives 30 minutes late each day will miss over 20 days of school in a year.

School Visits

Reception – Cefn Mably Farm, Barry Island
Year 1 – Roath Park
Year 2 – Forest School
Year 3 – Cardiff Castle
Year 4 - Theatre trip – Terrible Tudors
Year 5 - Heatehrton world of adventure
Year 6 - Swimming course (2 weeks) at Maindy Pool. Storey Arms Residential. Streetwise Pedestrian training. Porthkerry Park

Visitors to school

Oasis Choir – Refugee Week
Year 1 & 2 - Parental engagement afternoons to share learning.
Year 2 -Bees of Honeywood – Financial learning (funded by Monmouthshire Building Society)
Year 4 – Community Police visit
Year 6 -Cycling sessions - Bikeability. Flourish Course. Ted Richards – Local historian
Staff training- Expressive Arts ,Central South Consortium

Community Partnerships

Albany Road Baptist Church – Ongoing support including reading volunteers.
Vineyard Church Roath Food Co-op – Every Tuesday afternoon in the Gate Arts Centre. Providing access to affordable food for 1-2.30pm every Tuesday.
Little Live Projects – Providing music opportunities for the pupils – Year 2 and 3
Urban Crofters Church – Flourish Transition Project for Year 6

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