Albany Primary School

Newsletter – September 2023

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

Please find a copy of our latest newsletter. We've had a very busy first few weeks back at school and it has been great to welcome so many new pupils and families to our school community. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy year at Albany.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Howlett

Monday Madness at Albany

The children are thoroughly enjoying Monday Madness which has started in Progression Step 3. Each Monday the children get the opportunity to undertake a wide range of experiences with different teachers.

These include exploring on the minibus and taking part in Forest School activities, cooking delicious recipes in the kitchen, becoming a science-based video maker, learning a new sport and much more.

Active Travel

Since the return to school the children have been logging their journeys to school. We are working with the Cardiff Active Travel team and also Living Streets to promote active and safe travel. It has been great to see so many children walking, scooting and cycling to school.

To coincide with the launch of the 20mph speed limit in built up areas in Wales we were visited by the Deputy Minister for Climate change who met with children and walked to school.

Parking Outside School

Please can you ensure you do not park on the zig-zag lines at the back of school. ***These lines are there to make it safe for your children to cross before and after school. We are working with the council to enforce this to make the school safer.***

School Attendance & Punctuality

A reminder that school starts at **8.55am for all pupils**. Being on time starts a good habit for life but also **pupils who are half an hour late each day, miss nearly a day of learning every fortnight.**

There is also a breakfast club availaible. Children must arrive between 8.10-8.25am for this. If you are interested in sending your child to breakfast club please contact the school office on 02920499520 or by emailing albanyprm@cardiff.gov.uk

Improving school attendance is a priority area for us this year. Parents are legally obliged to make sure their child attends Albany Primary School (if they are registered with the school). 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.

Something 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.

High School Applications

If your child is due to start High School in 2024 (current year 6) Cardiff Councils admissions guide is now available on the council website. High school applications need to be made online and you will need an email address to complete the application. Support in making the application is available at Hubs around the city. **Applications open on 25th September 2023 and the closing date is 20th November 2023.**

More information including help videos can be found here.
https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Schools/Applying-for-a-school-place/Secondary-school/Pages/default.aspx

Stars of the week

Every Friday we have a celebration assembly in which class teachers select two pupils who have had an amazing week. These children are presented with certificates to recognise this. This is always a high point in the school week and it is great to hear about all of the exciting learning that has gone on across the school.

There is also a class of the week award that class teachers nominate their classes for if they feel the class has had a particularly exceptional week.

Tennis Sessions at the Mackintosh

Children from year 1, 3, 4 and 6 have started having their weekly tennis coaching sessions at the Mackintosh Tennis Club. These sessions provide the children with high quality coaching and provide an extra opportunity for the children to be active in their school week.

Children in other year groups across the school will also have this opportunity in the Spring/Summer terms.

Universal Free School Meals – Reception-Year 3

We are now able to offer pupils in Reception-Year 3 a free lunch in school which is funded by Welsh Government. The plan is for this to be extended to all pupils over the next year or so.

Pupils in other year groups may be entitled to free school meals if their family receives:

- Income Support
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Income Based JobsSeeker's Allowance
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit, or
- Child Tax Credit with an income less than £16,190
- Universal Credit if the net household earnings is less than £7400.

To find out more or apply click this link;
Free School Meals (cardiff.gov.uk)

INSET Days 2023-24

There will be 6 INSET days over the course of the year.

Monday 4th September
Tuesday 5th September 2023
Friday 6th October 2023
Monday 8th January 2024
Monday 19th February 2024
Monday 22nd July 2024.

School Website
www.albanyprm.co.uk
Email address
albanyprm@cardiff.gov.uk
Twitter
@albanyprm
Schoop – download app
School code 2704

School Visits

Children across the school have regular outdoor learning sessions
Year 1 – Tennis at the Mackintosh
Year 2 – St Fagans Museum
Year 3 – Tennis at the Mackintosh
Year 4 – Tennis at the Mackintosh
Year 6 - Tennis at the Mackintosh

Visitors to school

Cathays High School –Transition visit to year 6.
Schoolbeat Police Officer – Bullying workshops – Year 6

Community Partnerships

Mackintosh Tennis Club – Tennis sessions for pupils
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.
Cadwyn Housing Association – Planned project work throughout academic year
Little Live Projects – Providing music opportunities for the pupils.