Albany Primary School

Newsletter – December 2023

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

Please find a copy of our latest newsletter. It's been a very busy Autumn term and we seem to have raced into December and the preparation for concert season. I have been very proud of how well the children have settled in school this term and it has been great to see them engaging in their learning with such high levels of enthusiasm. In the words of our school song '***Albany can do it'.***

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Howlett

Children in Need

Our Health and Happiness Committee (pupil led group) organised a range of activities for Children in Need this year. On Friday 17th November children came to school wearing spotty or yellow clothes or something that makes them happy. The children participated in a range of activities across the school and we raised £117.85 for Children in Need.

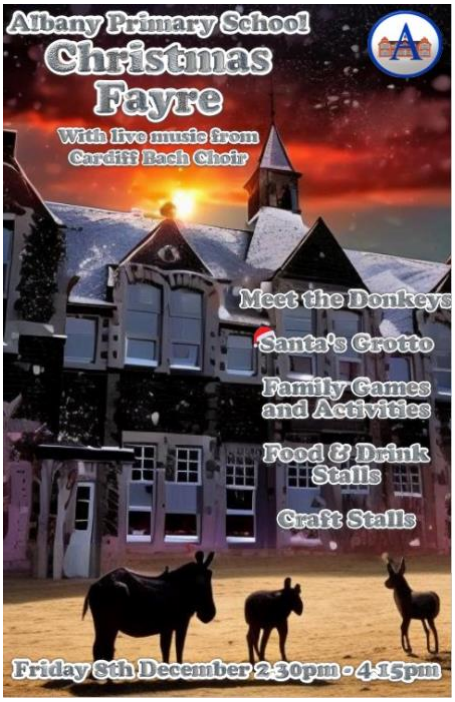
Parent's Open Event

We held a parent's open afternoon on Tuesday 7th November. This was very well attended and it was great for staff to have the opportunity to share information about school and the curriculum. It also provided an opportunity for parents to talk with governors and other community groups who may be able to support families in our school community. There was a very positive atmosphere throughout and it was great to have such a good turnout at this event.

'Learn together – play together – celebrate together'

The children are busy learning songs for their Christmas performances. Information about these was sent out last week and tickets are now on sale from the school office.

We are also looking forward to our Christmas Fayre this Friday. We are hoping that the weather will be dry for it but we have a wet weather plan in place if the weather lets us down.



This is our first fayre for a number of years. We are trying a new approach this year but are also planning other events throughout the year including our Community Eid celebration. As part of our school curriculum we learn about different religions and cultures and it is important that we recognise and celebrate these together as a school.

After School Clubs

It has been great to see after school clubs up and running. Dance club will be performing at the school Christmas Fayre, Acorn Antics Club have been collecting acorns for planting with Natural Resources Wales, Year 6 pupils have been enjoying an Improvisational Comedy Club. Our Football Club are representing the school in a 5 a-side tournament, we wish them the best of luck.

Thank you to all staff for giving up your own valuable time to provide these opportunities for the children.

Show Racism the Red Card

Children across the school wore red on 21st October as part of Show Racism the Red Card day 2023. The children also participated in a range of activities linked to this throughout the week.

Children across the school also made poppies to go on the school gates for Remembrance Day.

Applying for Reception 2024

If your child is due to start Full time School in 2024 (born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020) Cardiff Councils admissions guide is now available on the council website. Primary 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 opened on 13th November 2023 and the closing date is 8th January 2024.

More information can be found here.
[Primary school admissions (cardiff.gov.uk)]

Remaining INSET Days 2023-24

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

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 Attendance & Punctuality

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. We are working with our school attendance officer to ensure we make progress in this area.

Currently our overall school attendance is 89% which is significantly below where we would like it to be and also our pre-pandemic level of 94%.

Universal Free School Meals now available Reception-Year 4

We are now able to offer pupils in Reception-Year 4 a free lunch in school which is funded by Welsh Government.

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)

Apologies

I would like to apologise for the unplanned closure on Friday 17th November. This was due to a boiler failure. This was resolved over the weekend following the closure and you will have seen we now have a temporary boiler system which has taken up an area on the playground. I anticipate this being here all winter but I continue to work with the local authority to try and minimise impact on the children and also keep as much space available on the playground for outdoor play and learning.

School Visits

Children across the school have regular outdoor learning sessions
Acorn Antics after school club (Year 2/3)and delivering acorns to Natural Resources Wales.
Year 1 – Minibus tour of Cardiff looking at landmarks
Year 2 – St Fagans Museum
Year 3 – St Fagans Museum, Bute Park
Year 6 - Visit to Crucial Crew – Learning important safety messages

Visitors to school

Year 4 – The Welsh Dragon Creative Arts Workshop in hall.
Year 6 Streetwise training- Safety on the roads.

Community Partnerships

Albany Road Baptist Church – Ongoing support including reading volunteers. Whole school Christmas Carol service and Pantomime for years 4-6 will be held here.
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 whilst construction work is going on at Albany Road Baptist Church.
Little Live Projects – Providing music opportunities for the pupils – Year 2 and 3
Urban Crofters Church – Flourish Transition Project for Year 6 (Spring term)