Albany Primary School

Newsletter – September 2025

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

Please find a copy of our latest newsletter. We've had a very busy first couple of weeks back at school and it has been great to welcome so many new pupils and families to our school community. The children have settled quickly back into their routines with their new teachers and the atmosphere across the school has been really positive. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy year at Albany. This letter will also be shared on Schoop to enable you to access the links included.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Howlett

Welcome

We are really looking forward to the start of term and another exciting year at Albany. We hope that everyone has had an enjoyable summer break.

We would like to welcome our new pupils and families to Albany. It has been great to see our new Nursery and Reception pupils settling in so well. For some pupils and parents this can be a difficult time but we have been delighted with the way the children have settled so far and they seem very happy to be at Albany. The wellbeing of pupils is a priority at Albany and it is vital that children feel happy and safe coming to school in order to be ready to learn.

Communication and Social Media

Our main communication tool is Schoop. Please download the 'Schoop' app and enter our school code 2704. You will then receive regular updates from your child's class teacher and other school information.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be moving our school social media profile away from X and launching new channels on Facebook and Instagram. We want to ensure we share some of the great news and experiences that the children have but have made the decision to move to new platforms. We will keep you updated with this change.

School Leadership Changes

This year we have made some changes to the School Leadership Team following Mr Walker's retirement in July.

Headteacher
Mr Howlett

Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Mullane

Curriculum Leader
Mrs Chappell

Maths/Numeracy & MAT Leader
Mr Warner

ALNCo
Mrs Element

If you have any questions for us please find us on the playground before and after school or email the school on albanyprm@cardiff.gov.uk

School Building Update

After 3 years of scaffolding being up on the school playground I am pleased to inform you that some significant work has commenced at the school. Over the summer we had some internal work completed ahead of a newly designed roof covering being put on to resolve some ongoing issues. The roof work is likely to continue for a few more weeks.

We also have stonemasons currently working on Nursery. These will be working for a significant period of time and working their way around the school building to ensure all external walls are in good condition. We are pleased that after many issues over the years our school and your children are now getting the investment they deserve.

School Improvement Priorities 2025-26

Each year we identify key areas for improvement for our school and work throughout the year to achieve these goals. This year's priorities are;

1. **School Leadership** – Ensuring new leadership structure works effectively.
2. **Mathematics/Numeracy** – Review current provision and ensure challenging learning experiences for all pupils.
3. **Digital Skills** – Develop understanding of computational thinking
4. **Enquiry & Questioning** – Develop enquiry based learning through STEM & Humanities contexts.

School Essentials Grant

Families with children in Reception to Year 6 on lower incomes and **get certain benefits** can apply for:

-£125 per learner and extra funding for the school

Parents and carers can claim once per child per school year.

Receiving Universal Primary Free School Meals does not automatically entitle your child to the School Essentials Grant:

-Learners must be eligible for means-tested Free School Meals (eFSM).

The School Essentials Grant can help cover the costs of many things including school uniform. More information available here; School Essentials Grant (previously Pupil Development Grant)

High School Applications

If your child is due to start High School in 2026 (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 Monday 22nd September 2025 and the closing date is 17th November 2025.***

Admission to Schools 2026 to 2027

School Day Timings

A reminder that school starts at **8.55am for all pupils**.

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

INSET DAYS 2025-26

Monday September 1st 2025
Monday 6th October 2025
Monday 3rd November 2025
Monday 5th January 2026
Monday 13th April 2026
Monday 20th July 2026

School Attendance

This year we will have a new School Attendance Officer monitoring attendance and working with families to improve attendance. It is important that your child is in school every day. Did you know that although over 90% attendance may sound good it is actually over 3 weeks off a year. Please do your best to get your child into school everyday.

Attendance	School time missed
100%	No lessons missed
96 – 99%	Missing up to two weeks of school.
92 – 95%	Missing up to three weeks of school.
Below 92%	Missing more than three weeks of school.

Term dates

Autumn term 2025
Starts: Monday 1 September 2025
Half term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025
Ends: Friday 19 December 2025

Spring term 2026
Starts: Monday 5 January 2026
Half term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026
Ends: Friday 27 March 2026

Summer term 2026
Starts: Monday 13 April 2026
Half term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026
Ends: Monday 20 July 2026

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

School Visits

Foundation Phase & KS2 outdoor learning sessions
Year 1 – Cardiff Minibus trip
Year 4 – Cardiff Bay – Senedd visit

Visitors to school
Parent welcome meetings – all year groups

Community Partnerships

Albany Road Baptist Church – Ongoing support including reading volunteers. Planned adult learning courses.
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 (Spring term)