

Welcome to Mrs Davies'
weekly newsletter



26th May 2017

The Voice



Dear Parents

What a glorious day—it finally feels like Summer is here!

Slip, Slap, Slop

Now that the sun is out, please remember to put on your sun cream before you come to school after the half term break, and please bring in a sunhat to wear during playtimes. Children need a sunhat and to remember their water bottles.



Mound Removal

On Thursday, 25th May I met with the Planning Officer from St Albans to discuss the mound removal. The Building Contractors are still scheduled to bring machinery, fencing etc. on site on Tuesday, 30th May with the view to start as soon as possible.

The Building Contractor has confirmed that the scooter park and the side entrance to the school will not be available which therefore has implications for Roosters and Stay & Play. Below is the plan for both Breakfast Club and Stay & Play.

Roosters

As of Monday, 5th June Roosters will operate out of the library. The children will need to be brought to school via the normal entrance where they will be escorted to the library. The staff will walk the children to their classrooms as normal. The timings of Rooster's breakfast club will remain the same.

Stay & Play

Stay & Play will operate from the same room however parents will need to come to the main entrance of the school. Parents will need to buzz the door to let our Site Manager know you are ready to collect your children. The staff will then bring the children to the main entrance for collection.



Tom in his sun hat!

Additional Outdoor Opportunities

This week we have been able to confirm additional outdoor opportunities for the children to undertake while the mound is being removed.

This ranges from orienteering on the common, outdoor music and rock & soil investigation in Lydekker Park.

At the time of writing this I am awaiting confirmation from the leisure centre on the possibility of free tennis lessons for the children. I would like to thank our Governor, Kath Coulson, who has spent time working with the leisure centre to find suitable space for the children to go to.

All of these activities do hinge on parental support however in maintaining the ratio required by law.

This rota has been created to help class reps coordinate and teachers plan when they can take our children off site during lunchtimes (and some extended sessions) after May half term until the end of summer term, while the mound is being removed and the playground is unavailable. Year 3 is covered already, this is for Aslan, BFG, Austen, Dahl and Shakespeare. Reception parents welcome to lend a hand! Unfortunately you cannot help with a pre-school sibling (because you don't count for safety ratios).

Grandparents and friendly adults welcome too, you can sign up on their behalf on your account and enter their name and phone number at the end of the sign up process (only takes a minute!). You do not need to be DBS checked as you will always be accompanied by staff.

Volunteers for lunchtime help! Please click here and help out after half term even if just one day:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E094AACA82DA3FA7-lunchtimes

Thank you!

Class Assembly dates: 9.00-9.30am. All Parents/Carers welcome.

Date	Class
Monday 12 th June	Austen Y4
Monday 26 th June	Aslan and BFG Y1/2
Friday 14 th July	Shakespeare Y6

FOHA UPDATE

Don't forget to volunteer to help at the Demolition Exhibition – if a few people can give an hour or two, it will be a roaring success **with significant funds raised for the school.**

The Saturday is **family day** with big machines for the kids to try out, face painting, craft, bouncy castles, soft play and loads more – **all free.**

So, come along as a family and spare us an hour.

Please contact me, your reps or Ruth Penfold directly if you can offer some time.

Also, we have signed up to Stampstastic (<http://www.stampstastic.co.uk/>).

The company provide transparent **personalised stamps** which are usable on fabric, metal, wood and some plastics. It means **no more sewing or ironing on labels** and the ink will last wash after wash.

Friends of Harpenden Academy get to keep 20% of all sales so think about it for the new uniform. The unique code, which must be entered at the time of purchase is **AL54EN**

Thanks, and Happy ½ Term

The Friends of Harpenden Academy

No More Fidget Spinners Please!

Over the past few weeks, the children have been allowed to bring their fidget spinners into school. Whilst they are meant to relieve stress, they have become a classroom distraction and can become quite noisy. Therefore, when children return back from the summer half term break, they are requested not to bring them in anymore as they will be confiscated. Clearly the exception is if you have a child with a specific need and you have agreed with our SENCo that your child is allowed to bring a fidget spinner in. Thank you for your support!

Year 6

On Tuesday Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Tate Britain to explore the David Hockney exhibition. They were excited to see the real life paintings that we've been looking at in class and to see the progression in his career as an artist from sketching to acrylic painting to photo collage to iPad art. On Wednesday we started our Hockney- inspired art project which will involve us creating landscape paintings of Rothamsted Park.



Uniform

I have heard today from Stevensons that our new uniform will be available for display after half term. This will be displayed in the entrance hall for parents and children to view.

Finally..

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Gilham who leaves us to start her maternity leave. She has valiantly struggled through to get to the end of this half term.

We wish her and her husband the very best for the arrival of Baby Gilham and we will keep parents informed of the imminent news.



**Next Week is the
Summer Half-Term holiday!
(Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June)**

**Children are back to school on Monday 5th June
Have a lovely break!**

Parents on the Autistic Spectrum

Support group

(P.A.S.S.)

A new peer-lead support group aimed at providing information, advice and support to Autistic parents in Hertfordshire

Our first session will be on

Friday 30th June 2017

12:30 – 2:30pm (drop in any time)

at the South Hill Centre, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 1JF

We will be meeting on the last Friday of every month, same place same time

(Referral form must be completed)

What we are all about...

We provide support to parents who have, or are waiting on, an **Autism or Asperger's Syndrome diagnosis** with children under 18

The group is held in a **crèche with facilities for babies and young children**, including toys, changing facilities and crèche staff, as well as refreshments free of charge

We aim to have **guest professionals from all different agencies, local charities and organisations** to provide specialist knowledge and information around benefits, money advice, mental health, schools, education and other areas

The group is run by members of the **Asperger Social Care Team**, part of Hertfordshire County Council's Adult Disability services who can provide information about social care referrals for adults

We want to be a **safe, inclusive and understand place where parents can come and meet other parents on the spectrum** to help improve their understand of their diagnosis, develop coping strategies, develop new friendships and networks and build confidence around parenting

Email passinfo@mail.com or contact Hannah Bridle, social worker in the Asperger Social on 01442 453535 for a referral form