PTA & COMMUNITY BREAKFAST MINUTES

Date: 08.05.2026
Time: 9:00 AM

IN ATTENDANCE

Head Teacher Cathay Longhurst, 15 parents.

PTA

Mrs. Longhurst thanked the PTA for all their support this year with the purchase of new equipment including: -

Wall Art – History timeline to support the annual History week when every year group learns about a different period of history in St Albans

Wall Art – Mandeville Values outside on the playground

Puppet Show – Year 5. This is the 7th year of the puppet show. This year the performance will be held at St Albans Cathedral on Wednesday 20th May @ 6.30 and 7.45. Everyone welcome. Tickets should be purchased from the St Albans cathedral website. Performances will be held during the day to other St Albans schools.

The Puppet show is an excellent opportunity for our year 5 children. They learn to work as a team after they are assigned different roles on day one e.g. Stage manager, voice actors, puppeteers.

OPaL – Outdoor Play and Learning. Thank you to the PA for purchasing lots of OPAL equipment, storage, and outdoor radio.

OPaL has had such a positive impact on our lunchtimes. It's so great to see children of different ages playing together. The children have been taught how to play safely using equipment of which the tyres are very popular! The Reading Hut is open again and we also have a new whole school sandpit with a lid at the end of KS2.

The PTA has been asked to fund the purchase of new folding chairs for the hall that can be quickly and efficiently stored away.

SWIMMING POOL

This is our 3rd year of having a swimming pool and is having such an enormous impact on the confidence of our children in the water. The groups with the most time in the pool are the year 6's who are not yet able to swim 25m and Reception to increase their confidence in the water.

SUMMER FAIR

The PTA summer Fair will be held on Friday 3rd July between 5 and 8 pm. Help is needed to ensure that this is a success and can even go ahead. We will be sending out a volunteer spreadsheet to ask as may parents as possible to help for as little as half an hour, but especially with setting up and clearing away at the end.

The budget for the current school year was distributed by August Bergqvist, PTA Treasurer, and reviewed by the board and PTA members at the last meeting. In tonight's meeting, Angelica Astrom made a motion to approve the budget which was seconded by Allan Mattsson. All present voted in favor of approving the budget as presented.

PREMISES TEAM

The two school cleaners are both unwell and as a result we currently do not have any cleaners working in the school, which is making it exceedingly difficult. Charle has resigned so our Premises Team is now down to just Kevin who is at the end of his tether!

Everyone in the school is helping out but it's proving difficult to maintain our usual standards.

The Cleaner and Assistant Caretaker vacancies have both been advertised on MyNewTerm. If you know anyone who is interested in either position, please sign post them to either MyNewTerm or come to the school office for more information.

ADMISSIONS

The birth rate is continuing to fall and we are in our 3rd year of struggling to fill the classes in Reception. We have applied to the Department for Education to reduce to a 1 form entry school and so we will only have one Reception Class in September as we currently only have 28 children.

In time the school will get smaller and smaller, and we must do everything to be financially stable. Our Nursery likewise will only have 154 children when it can have 26.

OFSTED

Further to the inspection on the 10th & 11th February the report has not yet been published.

We felt that the inspection was a positive and fair inspection, and we felt that the inspectors understood the school. We are, however, not happy with the report. There is a meeting next week so hopefully the report will be published soon.

The last few months have been a difficult time in school.

SOPWELL RESIDENCE ASSC

Kate Swindells reported on a number of projects happening in the local community.

Sopwell Community Garden Project

Located in Berners Drive there is free food to pick, seedlings available and a plant sale on Saturday 16th may in the Garden close the railway crossing.

The Cottonmill Community WhatsApp group is always looking to add new members. Please join us to find out what is happening in your local area.

They will be providing all children in year 4 in Sopwell with a see potato again this year to encourage them to grow their own potatoes.

They joined with the school to run a planting session with our Eco Club children.

ABBEY LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

The partnership promotes the Abbey Line Trains and connects the community with the railway.

Earlier this year Rymes on the lines were displayed outside Watford Town Hall and outside St Albans Cathedral and now outside the museum in St Albans town centre.

The next project is to Bring Kindness Along the Line

COTTONMILL GATHERING

To be held on the 5th of July between 12 and 4pm

Attractions include Fairground Rides, a stage of local musicians, stalls of local produce, and a min' steam train.

Volunteers are needed and entry is free.

ST ALBANS COMMUNITY PANTRY

The aim of the pantry is to rescue food and not send food to landfill.

Free hot meals are served in the Cottonmill Community Centre every Thursday between 3.30 and 5.30 pm. Open to all, no booking required.