



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of term, as well as being busy with our normal lessons, pupils have been taking part in some festive activities. As part of their English lessons, year 6 enjoyed a production of 'A Christmas Carol' last week. This has inspired some super written work. Year 5 have welcomed year 4 pupils from our lower schools for an afternoon of singing, which was a super event. All year groups had the opportunity to take part in the Christmas Fayre and Christmas jumper day. As a school we also enjoyed a festive lunch. The Christmas concert was a fantastic success, as always, and was both a great first concert for Mr Ferreira and last concert for Mrs Eames. I would like to thank both of them and the rest of the team for making it such a success.

We have been focusing on our value of the month, which is "appreciation". As part of this, we have been encouraging youngsters to think about how they can show appreciation for others, as well as appreciate things other than material possessions. We think this is a particularly important message at this time of the year.

As always, it has been wonderful to see our Alameda events so well supported by you and I would like to thank you for this. The gifts donated for the PTA Christmas Fayre were wonderful and enabled a significant amount to be raised to support the children at school. Thank you for supporting the Christmas Fayre too. It was also great to see so many of you at the recent year 6 consultation evening and parents evening. The "have your say" evening was less well attended, so we would welcome feedback on how best to seek your views as I appreciate that busy people will only want to attend things they find relevant. Please contact me via email or letter if you have any views on this

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 6th January. I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Miss M Warner
Headteacher

Attendance

Year 5 97.52%
Year 6 96.95%
Year 7 96.49%
Year 8 96.55%

Headteacher's WOW Awards

Freya E, Alice S, Jorga N and Chloe C for excellent Values work. Tom B, Mason P, Gabriella B, Ellie T, Frankie B, Daisy J, Jonah F and Chloe W for excellent Values work about happiness. Ruby S and Jake R for excellent work on 'Stone Cold'. Maya F, Tayla W, Jack S, Malaki M-B, Anaaya C and Henry M for excellent models of major organs for science. Aimee C, William L-P, Daniel S and Charlie R for excellent work in English. Daisy J, Lydia H, Austin W Heather D and Ella K for excellent English homework. Izzy C for her excellent cell model and poster for science homework. Fin C, Alfie R, Jamie W and Noah M for excellent habitat models produced for science homework. Adam M for excellent reflection work in maths. Jessica H for excellent written work in Geography. Finnian J for a fantastic muscle diagram produced for PE option. James C for his extremely impressive model of 'Stone Cold' produced for English.

Welcome.....

to some new members of our team and goodbye and good luck to some others

There have been a few staff changes this term that I wanted to make sure you were aware of. While these are relatively few in number when you consider the overall size of the school, we do take time to consider how best to ensure that disruption for the children brought about by any changes is kept to a minimum.

You may be aware that earlier this term, Mrs Armstrong left us to pursue new projects. We wish her well and were really pleased to appoint Mrs Nelson-Cole as a new member of the PE department. Mrs Nelson-Cole's lessons and contribution to extra-curricular activities have been excellent so far and it is great to see her inspiring the children to excel, particularly in her areas of expertise such as netball. We were really pleased to be able to appoint someone so experienced and talented in this area. Mr Oliver is now overall Subject Leader for PE.

Mrs Vesztrocy, one of our receptionists, also left earlier this term. Her duties are currently being covered by our other receptionists and members of the admin team while we recruit a replacement. You may have seen our advert for an apprentice administrator. We wish Mrs Vesztrocy all the very best for the future.

Earlier in the autumn term, we advertised for an apprentice site agent to join our team. We were really pleased with the response to this advert and were delighted to appoint Mr Hollis. He has made a super start and fits into the team really well. It is particularly pleasing to be able to provide an opportunity for a former pupil. He is working well with Mrs Woodyatt, our site agent and the rest of the team.

Many of you will have children fortunate enough to have been taught by Mr Bloomfield. We were disappointed to learn that he has chosen to take a break from teaching to pursue other opportunities, but also pleased for him to be able to try something new, as such a young member of the team. Mr Bloomfield joined us over two years ago as a maths teacher, having come from another school, and directly from his studies prior to that. Whilst we are very sad to lose such an inspirational young teacher, we understand that he has some really exciting projects and opportunities to look forward to, which I can fully understand someone of his age wanting to do. Obviously, we would welcome him back to Alameda in the future if he were to want to return to teaching. Mr Bloomfield, as well as teaching super lessons and being an excellent form teacher has always been very giving of his time – always available to share his skills with a Rubik's Cube as well as helping with maths or generally talking things through with those who approached him. We were pleased to be able to appoint a well-qualified and experienced teacher to replace him. Mr Stonehouse joins us in January.

We currently have four members of our teaching team on maternity leave.

Mrs How gave birth to a baby girl just before the summer holiday. It has been great to see them both doing so well. More recently Mrs Piazza announced the arrival of a baby girl, Mrs Burt had another baby boy and Mrs Store also recently gave birth to a baby boy.

We would like to wish future health and happiness to Mrs Eames, who also leaves us at the end of term. Mrs Eames has taught at Alameda and led the music department along with Mrs Cartwright and more recently Mr Ferreira for over 12 years. As an excellent musician and superb teacher, she has brought so much to the school and will be missed.

In January, Mr Stanley will take a period of paternity leave, returning before the February half-term break. His lessons will be covered by Mr Whitfield and Mrs O'Grady and Mrs Nelson-Cole will take over his form tutor role during his absence. Many of you will know Mr Whitfield, a regular and reliable supply teacher to Alameda.

Miss M Warner
Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary

20.12.19	End of term
6.1.20	Back to school
13.1.20	KS2 Road Safety Assembly
14.1.20	KS3 Road Safety Assembly
16.1.20	Year 5 Subject Consultation Evening
22.1.20	Year 8 Subject Consultation Evening
24.1.20	Year 8 Romeo and Juliet play and Workshop
28.01.20	Year 7 Subject Consultation Evening
30.1.20	Year 5 maths and English information evening
30.01.20	Year 5 open afternoon (to be confirmed)
Week beg 10.2.20	Year 6 mock sats week
10.2.20	CHUMs Shine Bright Wear Bright
14.2.20	Break up for half term
24.2.20	Back to school

Year 5 News

Merry Christmas!

What a long and exciting term it has been for year five. They have enjoyed their first taste of inter-house competition with this year's 'Dance Off', they have been on a day trip learning all about keeping safe at Hazard Alley and sang their socks off in a carol service welcoming next year's cohort to Christmas at Alameda.

The year five pupils continue to impress me with the way they have settled into school life at Alameda and with the gusto with which they are rising to new challenges and experiences. They have flourished in their independence, shown school values independently and are supportive of one another. There is no uncertainty that this is supported by the amazing form tutors and you as parents and carers.

As per the last newsletter, I have given two year five pupils the opportunity to tell you themselves about some of the amazing things they have experienced and enjoyed:

'When I first started Alameda I was really worried I was going to get lost, not make friends and get my homework in late; but transition day made me feel a lot happier. I found out everyone feels the same way. I do lots of music lessons, cornet (mini trumpet), drums and piano. I thought it would be hard to get to all of them. But what I did is I kept a watch with me so I knew the time. In the first few weeks I didn't do any clubs but then I realised how many people did them so I did many after that! But one of my clubs I did was Dance-Off so every Friday I stayed in my classroom to do Castile Dance-Off. When we finished I was more excited than worried about the performance. We came 3rd in the year I'm quite competitive, but I was happy we came 2nd overall! I've really enjoyed my first term at Alameda.'

Rosa, 5DPE

'On my first day I wasn't really worried as I have two older brothers who are or have been at Alameda, I was just excited. My favourite lesson so far has been PE – there is a big hall to do sports in and lots of different equipment. We have learnt rugby in PE this term and I had not played it before so that was interesting. I go to football club, I am on the school council and have been picked to represent Alameda in athletics and badminton – this makes me feel proud and that my efforts have been rewarded. In January I will be doing cooking, which I am very excited about! All in all Alameda is a great school!'

Seb, 5GYA

We have another interesting term full of new opportunities and challenges coming up, but for now I wish you all a healthy and restful break!

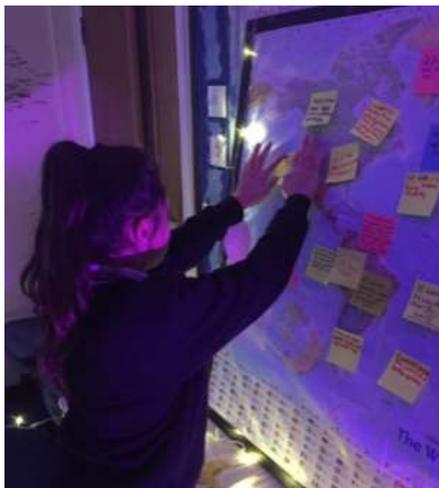
Mrs N. O'Grady
Year 5 Leader

Year 6 News

Throughout November, the pupils in year 6 have once again performed very well in lessons and continue to demonstrate the 'values' that everyone at Alameda prides themselves on. During lessons, pupils have demonstrated great focus and a willingness to get involved in class discussions and feedback, which is important for the development of their self-esteem and confidence.

With the success of this term's SATs evening, year 6 pupils have recently benefited from English and maths related learning within all their lessons. Staff have been identifying interesting ways in which their subject could offer support to the SATs process by linking current themes to activities that pupils are covering within English and maths.

A recent event where pupils demonstrated a variety of core values was the 'Prayer Spaces' event aimed specifically at all pupils from year 6. The event, hosted by Impact Bedfordshire, encouraged the children to engage in self-reflection activities and thought sharing tasks. The activities saw two classrooms turned into meditation/self-reflection spaces, which included a 'friendship tent', 'worries tree' and a 'questions for God' area, which allowed children to share their positive thoughts and their concerns.



The staff who ran the session commented on how amazing the year 6 pupils of Alameda were in their respect and willingness to get involved, a comment which I totally agree with as all pupils were a credit to themselves and the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term, whether this be ensuring your children are exceeding our attendance target for the year of 97%, attending after school events or assisting the SATs process with 'real-life' examples of literacy or numeracy to supplement learning in the classroom. The communication that the year 6 team have had with parents over the last term has mostly been extremely positive, with a shared view that everyone is supporting the immense potential of all the children in the year group.

Many thanks for your ongoing support and I hope you have a lovely Christmas holiday.

Mr P. Harley
Year 6 Leader

Year 7 News

What a way to finish the first term of key stage 3, celebrating all the different successes of individuals for their consistent effort and achievements across all subjects, showing the Alameda values and in extracurricular activities.

There have been a huge number of individual successes from outside of school as well, from golf, dance, music, swimming, running, martial arts and many others. Clearly a very talented and hard working group of young people.

It has been very pleasing to see the pupils show their school values at a number of different events this term. As ever the remembrance service was so moving, the mature manner and empathy shown during the service and the activities that followed. How pupils have represented the school for sporting fixtures, during open evening, their generosity with donations for both charities and our own Christmas Fayre.

The pupils' attitude towards their learning both in and out of the classroom is really positive, along with personal progress continuing to flourish. Homework club has been highly attended and the standard of individual's work has been fantastic across the many different subjects.

I hope you all enjoy the festive season, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs H. Sibley
Year 7 Leader

Year 8

It has been a really positive first term for year 8. We have had lots of great successes, both in and out of the classroom.

In lessons, it has been great to see year 8 engage with their learning this past half term, particularly with their English topic of 'Stone Cold'. The level of thought that students have put into their homework project work has been really impressive, and we have been really proud to share their work with you on our school Facebook page. As part of this work, Austin W completed some exceptional research homework, which I really appreciated him sharing with the cohort in an assembly. Year 8 also benefited from a talk from Sam Page from 'Bedfordshire Homeless Partnership' to assist them with the preparation for their writing assessment. Joseph W 8CPA said, *'We learnt so much from Sam. For example, how many people are actually homeless in Bedford and the initiatives that are in place to support, such as hostels. It has really helped with my work in English.'* In maths, students have begun preparation for their transition to upper school, looking at some of the key elements of the GCSE maths curriculum.

The contributions to wider school life have also been exceptional this half term. Our year 8 students showed great commitment again in preparation for the inter-house dance-off, and I was really proud of the way in which many of our year 8 dancers also stepped up to help out the younger year groups in their houses with choreographing their dances. A big well done for all of their efforts in readiness for this. In addition, our year 8 football and rugby teams have had a really successful start to their seasons, with many wins already recorded, and we are delighted with the fact that several members of our year 8 rugby team were not only selected for the Year 8 Partnership Rugby Team, but that they then went on to win their first game against Bedford Modern school. Our year 8 netball team have also shown commitment again this season and

made a really positive start to their campaign this year. Follow our Alameda Middle School PE Twitter page for regular updates of our team successes.

Transition to upper school is also well under-way; many of our students attended the Redborne Upper School open evening, and it was wonderful to hear their positive responses and enthusiasm following this event. I have also started working with Mr Woodward, who will be the Head of Year 9 at Redborne next September, to begin looking at further transition events to take place next term. A big thank you also goes to Mr Ferreira for working alongside Mr Pryce, head of music at Redborne, for arranging for Year 8 to visit to watch the RUS musical, 'Oliver.' It was a great chance for students to not only see the talent of the older students, but also to appreciate some of the amazing opportunities that will be available to them in year 9.

I thoroughly enjoyed taking the students to the 'Skills Show' this term to expose students to career opportunities, from engineering to hospitality, linking to their learning in values. Ashley C said, '*I learnt about a lot of different sectors in terms of careers at the Skills Show, my personal favourite being cooking. I really enjoyed the VR experience too, where I saw things being built in front of my eyes!*'

It was my great pleasure to take over as year 8 leader when Mrs Burt commenced her maternity leave. She welcomed a healthy baby boy, named Killian, and we eagerly await them visiting us in school in the new year.

Next term, I look forward to welcoming you into the year 8 parent consultation evening to discuss pupil strength and target areas so that we can work together to build on the positive start that students have made to their final year with us.

Wishing you all a very restful winter break, and a Happy New Year.

Mr G. Farr
Year 8 Leader

Music News

On Saturday 23rd November, some of our talented musicians took part in a Student Showcase event organised by our guitar teacher Mr Edwards. The boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were absolutely awesome! They were even given the opportunity to perform again the following weekend and were thrilled to have been asked!

A MASSIVE well done to Sam B, Will M, Evan S, Joseph W and Austin W!



As always, it's been a busy half term in the music department! The uptake of musical instrument lessons has continued to be enthusiastic and we even have waiting lists for some instruments. Pupils from all years and across all range of instruments have been entered for external examinations and are eagerly awaiting their results.

The 4th December saw Alameda's annual Christmas concert which was so popular that we actually sold out of tickets and ended up as "standing room only." All of the groups and soloists who performed did themselves proud and as always it was a festive and enjoyable event featuring our talented youngsters from across the year groups.

On Monday 9th December, our feeder lower schools joined us for an afternoon of festive singing. This was, as ever, an enjoyable event and a lovely opportunity to get the schools together and contribute to the transition between lower and middle school.

Next year will see lots of exciting events and changes in the music department as new computer software is introduced and auditions for "Alameda's Got Talent" commence! On a final note, please remind pupils to bring their instruments home for Christmas and if they can remember to get them out of their cases and have a play over the holidays that would be even better!

Mr M. Ferreira and Mrs E. Eames
Subject Leaders for Music

Design Technology

Artwork for St Augustine's Primary School, Dunstable



'Last week we visited St Augustine's Primary School to present a mural that we produced for their new library. The children from St Augustine's chose the designs and we painted it under Mr Harley's guidance.

During the visit, we had lunch, met Mrs Howes their Headteacher and spoke to members of their school council. They were very grateful to receive the mural and gave us some lovely gifts of art books and pencils'

Jacob, Martha, Josh and Olivia

PE News

We have had a good half-term mainly consisting of football, gymnastics and dance in PE lessons. Children have been working hard and showing lots of creativity in developing and performing their routines. We also welcomed Mrs Nelson-Cole to our PE department and she has hit the ground running, especially with our KS2 netball teams who have recently started their fixtures.

Year 7 football

The year 7 football team has had a successful start to their cup competitions and have played some fantastic football in the process. They had a good win in the first round of the County Cup, beating Henlow 3-0 and are now also into the 5th Round of the National Cup after wins against Lealands, Oxford Spire and Northampton Academy!



Year 5 badminton completion



Some of our year 5's enjoyed attending a badminton festival which was led by Badminton England at our sports hall. Our year 8 sports leaders did an excellent job in helping to run the event and our year 5's showed some awesome racket skills!

Year 5/6 rugby



Both year groups have attended their partnership competitions this half term and have both displayed some really good work. The boys have committed to training on a Monday afternoon and their hard work has paid off with the year 6's coming 3rd in their competition whilst the year 5's won their event!



Year 8 partnership rugby

Some of our year 8 boys have attended the partnership representative squad training. The best players from all nine partnership schools working together to form a 'super team' which will then face Bedford Modern, Bedford School and a Sharnbrook representative side.



Year 5/6 netball

A really positive netball season from all the netball players this year, with some excellent results secured. The year 6 girls fought hard in their league and finished in a



respectable second place. The year 5 team are still working hard in their league, developing skills and confidence playing against some highly competitive oppositions. The year 5 students are making huge adjustments going from playing high 5 netball to the introduction of two additional players on court. This brings its own challenges for the girls but they are fast familiarizing themselves with the new game. The year 7 and year 8 team continue to train hard in preparation for the County tournaments which are fast approaching. Let's hope all the training is noticed and we are able to dominate on the court in February. All of the girls have demonstrated the Alameda values during training and matches and they have been a credit to both manager and coach. I am excited to observe the progress of the teams and hope all of the students have equally enjoyed their netball season thus far. Additional gratitude needs to be given to the parents/carers of the students who continually come and offer support to the team at our home fixtures, it has helped us secure some last minute goals and boost morale when we are chasing a difficult goal difference.

Dance Off



The ninth annual inter-house Dance-Off took place at the end of November after weeks of children's hard work perfecting their dances. The numbers taking part seemed to be even bigger this year and all years put on a fantastic show. Well done to Mr Brown and all the other staff who helped put routines together and organize the competition.



Well done to overall winners, Leon!

Our dancers have also been attending dance clubs held at school and are looking forward to entering the 'One Step' competition in December!

House Football

Year 5 have taken part in inter-house football this half term. Both competitions were very well attended by our pupils with house captains and sports leaders doing a good job at organizing teams and running the events. Navarre won the boy's competition whilst Navarre and Leon had to share the honours in the girl's event.

Futsal



Towards the end of this term we have entered into a couple of indoor football competitions which the children really enjoy. Last year we were lucky enough to get a team all the way to the national semi-final. Our KS3 boys played really well and picked up the bronze medals at the county competition this year. The KS2 girl's team play before the end of term!

Indoor Athletics

The end of the term sees pupils from all year groups competing in the indoor athletics competitions at Robert Bloomfield. Our children have enjoyed practicing for some of the events and are looking forward to competing against other schools!

You can keep up to date with news, updates and pictures from PE and fixtures by following our PE twitter page at: www.twitter.com/alamedapedept

We would also love for you to send us pictures of your children taking part in a healthy and active lifestyle outside of school. These can be tweeted to us using the hashtag #Alamedahealthselfie or sent into Mr Oliver at koliver@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk

Mr K. Oliver
Subject Leader for PE



English Department December Update

What a busy term it's been! We've had lots going on in the English department that's for sure.

We've had a visit from author Julian Sedgwick. We were really lucky to be introduced to Julian last year, through working with Ampthill Litfest and Phil Nicholson from Ampthill Great Park, and we were fortunate to be able to invite him back this year. During his visit this term, Julian delivered a talk to our KS3 pupils, and then ran writing workshops with different chosen pupils, focusing on developing character and setting for the reader. Ms Fielden was the lead member of staff for this - she was really impressed with the visit had lots of positives to share: *'Julian was inspirational! The levels of student focus, quality of discussion and thoughtful consideration reflected this, and the levels of perception evident in these outcomes were really impressive. Several students have approached me at different points since a) to remind me how much they enjoyed it and b) to ask if they could be involved in something similar again. It is, quite simply, wonderful to see and hear students so excited about being creative with their writing.'*

Also this term, Year 6 have enjoyed a performance from M and M Productions of 'A Christmas Carol'. Students have used this theatre experience to write a review of the performance. We all enjoyed the show and students had lots to say afterwards:

'I thought that the play was great – I liked the way that the actor playing Scrooge really acted like he was from the Victorian period. It also made me remember 'The Jungle Book' performance, which M and M Productions performed to us last year and I really enjoyed too.'

Rebecca C

'The performance was really good: I liked all the sound clips that they used from adverts and the actors could actually sing and dance! It was funny and made me laugh.'

Nya S

'The performance was funny because there were lots of twists to the story, and they also had really nice costumes.'

Summer D

'When the teachers got up and danced to baby shark, it was really funny. I really liked that the actors made them do the actions too. I also liked the dancing and songs as I knew all the songs.'

Cruz C

We look forward to welcoming M and M Productions back in the Summer term when they will perform for our Year 5 cohort.

Year 8 students have impressed us all with their work on 'Stone Cold' – I hope you have seen their amazing work which we have shared on our Facebook page. Students really have shown maturity, empathy and sensitivity when considering the issue of homelessness, both in the project work we've shared with you, as well as in their writing assessments, where Year 8 were required to write to a Member of Parliament about the issue of homelessness.

After Christmas, Year 5 will come back to 'Instruction writing' and a study of 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan; Year 6 will move on to look at an exciting new unit 'Children of the Dust', with Year 7 moving on to 'Advertising', where they will get the opportunity to showcase their creative skills by producing their own adverts. Year 8 will move on to study Shakespearian heroes and villains, and they will enjoy a performance of 'Romeo and Juliet' by Box Clever theatre group on the 24th January 2020 as part of this unit.

As a school, we continue to focus on writing across the curriculum to really help all of our students to achieve and excel in all subject areas. We have been impressed with the improvements in presentation and the range of punctuation that students have showcased being able to use. We look forward to seeing more of this in the New Year when we look to develop these skills and when we will move to focus on showcasing our vocabulary, which our students are extending every time they read!

It was great to meet lots of Year 6 parents at the consultation evening in December, and the English department look forward to meeting more of you at the consultation for our other year groups in January 2020.

As ever, keep an eye on our Facebook page for more updates from the English department. From all of us in the English department, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Amy Mckinnon
Subject leader for English

Poppy Appeal 2019

This year we collected an amazing £199 for the British Legion. Thank you to all who bought a poppy.



Crossing Safely

We have received a message from Claire Kingham, the local Road Safety Officer, expressing concern over the way in which a minority of Alameda pupils are crossing Station Road. These concerns have been shared with her by Mrs Shaughnassy the crossing patrol lady and other concerns have been shared by drivers. Some children are choosing not to use the crossing patrol, instead are crossing before or after they reach her. Claire will be leading an assembly after the Christmas break. Form tutors have spoken about this and it would be helpful if you backed up this message at home if your children use this route to school.

Safety for the School Community – Parking and Access to School

Thank you, as always to everyone who encourages their children to walk to school as this does a lot towards minimizing traffic close to the school site. I appreciate that this is not practical for some families, particularly those who live further away and for whom there isn't a bus route.

Many of our parents and carers use the safer route to school drop off at the sports hall car park, access to which is via the access drive for Parkside Hall off Woburn Street. We are well supported by the trustees of Parkside Hall in enabling this access. For a reasonably sized annual contribution towards the maintenance of Parkside Hall's access drive, we are able to allow parents and carers to pick up and drop off in the sports hall car park. As we cannot allow access to school to drop off and pick up via Station Road for safety reasons, we appreciate the use of Parkside/sports hall.

I have been asked by the trustees of Parkside Hall to remind parents and carers that while we have access via Parkside to the sports hall car park, we do not have permission to park in Parkside Hall's car park. **You should only park in the area owned by Alameda** – which is the unsurfaced sports hall car park. Signs show where our land starts, the attached plan, provided by Parkside also shows where you can and cannot park. **Parkside Hall's car park is outlined in green. Please do not park in this area.** This is due to extra wear and tear on their car park as well as the spaces often being required for hirers. The trustees were concerned about some parents and carers arriving very early and using the spaces for quite some time. They explained that in the morning there was never an issue as parents generally do not park to wait as they do (quite understandably) at the end of the day.

I appreciate that Parkside can be busy, hence us having members of our leadership team supervising at the end of the day. We are also looking into ways of expanding the parking provision. We are, however, rather restricted on funds for this, hence why the surface has not been improved yet. We are, however, hoping to work on this.

I must also remind everyone to please not drop children off on Station road or in the turning circle or at the Firs in the morning. This is a very busy area with buses arriving and large numbers of children walking in. Our staff on duty in this area have been concerned about parents using the turning circle to drop off and I ask that you please do not do this.

Thank you very much for your support.

Ms D Fickling
Business Manager

Message From The Governors

The first question many of you may be asking is 'what do the school governors do?'. The role of the Board of Governors is as vision setters and strategic decision makers for the school and we are charged with ensuring that the best possible education is delivered to take every child as far as their talents allow. What does this mean in practice? Governors have three core functions:

- We ensure that there is a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction within the school. This means having a plan for the next three years that will deliver the best education possible to your children.
- We hold the senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and for the effective management of all the staff.
- We oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure the money we receive is well spent

Why is this important to you? The Governors don't run the school but we do help the school leaders to create a vision and a framework and we also help make sure that we spend the money we receive on the right things. We think it is important that we share some of this with you which is why one Governor will write a piece for each newsletter from now on.

Who are the school governors? They are all listed on the school website under School Info. If you want to ask questions or make suggestions for what we should include in this section of the newsletter, please email our Clerk, Liz Walker on ewalker@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk

For this piece, we just wanted to share some information on the school finances. The school's accounts up to 31st August have now been finalised and I am pleased to report that the school's finances are in good order with strong financial management in place. In an era of horror stories of the parlous state of some school's finances, I think sharing our financial stability with you is important. Whilst no school is rolling in money right now, due to our popularity and being full in all year groups, coupled with some excellent financial management from our leadership team, as a school we are in good shape and able to make investments in a number of areas across the school to improve both the environment for the children as well as their education.

From the Board of Governors, we hope all the staff, parents and children have a great Christmas holiday and are looking forward to a healthy, happy and successful 2020.

Simon Ratcliffe
Chair of the Board of Governors

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Update

As part of our regular reviewing of policies and processes our SEND policy and report have been updated. They can be found, along with other information about SEND on our website

<http://www.alamedamiddleschool.org.uk/page/?title=SEND&pid=58>

If you have any queries or would like to discuss anything relating to SEND at school, please contact me directly either by telephone (you may have to leave a message as I teach and am often involved in meetings) or via email ccannon@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk

Ms C Cannon
SENDCo

Homework Questionnaire

We are in the process of reviewing our homework policy. To help with this, we have created a questionnaire that can be found on Edulink One in the 'forms' section and clicking on 'homework questionnaire'. This closes on 28th January 2020. Thank you to the many of you who have already completed this.

We would appreciate your feedback, so if you have any problems accessing the questionnaire, could you please contact us on edulinkhelp@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk

Thank you for your participation.

Mrs Barrows
Deputy Headteacher