



St Alban's CE Primary School

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18th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

You'll hopefully have picked up by now the recent newsletter, which details some of the Christmas events at school this year. It is so important to us that we maintain that 'special' feel around school in the run up to Christmas, so that children have a sense of normality – or as much as we possibly can in the circumstances that we all find ourselves in!

Our school is such a musical school and we love singing, which is something that we have limitations on at the moment due to Covid-19 restrictions. Can you help please give our children the chance to sing and perform as part of our Christmas video this year, which is replacing our concerts in school?

On class dojo, we have posted the link to the song, 'The Blessing', along with the lyrics. We would like our children to record themselves singing along to the song, please, from home. Instructions for how to do this are at the end of this letter, along with details about how you can return your video to us through a designated drop box.

Please don't worry if your recording isn't pitch perfect, as children's voices will be blended with others in school to create a choir, but we will use the video recording to include your child singing on the final version with other children from across school – almost like a recorded zoom with several faces on a screen.

As long as we get as many of you as possible to all join in and take part, we will be able to use the final version will form the finale of our recorded Christmas play this year. The final version will be shared on class dojo and will not be published elsewhere on social media or on the website, so will remain private to our school.

Please consider helping your child to take part and start practising now! The lyrics are below and are also included on class dojo. The deadline for sending us your completed video using the drop box as outlined in the guidance below is Friday 4th December.

Thanks for joining in with a bit of St Alban's Christmas spirit!

Mrs Adair, Mrs Gurner.

FILMING GUIDANCE

SETTING UP

Before starting your recording, you will need to consider where you are going to film your little one from. You will need to consider lighting, environment and technology for filming. We want to make this the best quality it can be, so here are some tips on what to consider when setting up:

- *Lighting:* where possible, use natural light and make sure that the light is **in front** of the person singing, not behind.
- *Environment:* make sure that you are in an uncluttered environment with no background noise. You may want to avoid places that echo, for example, the kitchen or a larger room – smaller rooms create better sound for videoing. You will want to prepare a clear space for your child to **stand** and sing the song.
- *Technology:* You will need two types of technology, one for videoing and one for playing audio (with headphones). Consider what is the best quality item you have for videoing, that can be made still (not shaking!). It may be that you use your laptop on a table for videoing, you can do this through zoom by creating a 'new meeting' and pressing record! You could then use your phone, with headphones, for your child to listen to the audio track. Whatever you choose to film on, will need to be in a landscape frame.

PREPARING THE SONG

As already mentioned, we would like for you to record your child singing 'the blessing'. The track that we would like you to follow, alongside the lyrics, is attached to your class dojo message. Please follow this track and lyrics, as they are slightly different from what is available online.

As mentioned above, you will need to prepare a device for playing the audio through headphones, separate to what device you are filming on. This is so that your child can follow along to the song (with the right key and timing) through headphones whilst recording but the only sound being recorded is your child's voice. The audio should not be played out loud if you can help it, if this isn't possible then play the audio as quietly as possible to assist with our editing.

FILMING TIPS

- Do the recording in one take, we will be using snippets of your recording, so even if a mistake is made just keep going.
- Look at the camera when singing
- Record as individuals, not as a group. If you do choose to use zoom for recording, this should be just to record an individual (1 screen), not multiple voices/screens.

UPLOADING THE VIDEO

- *Labelling:* Before uploading your video, please add a code to our labelling to tell us whether your child is happy to have a solo during the song or not. If your child wants a solo, add 'SOLO' to the label, if they just want to be a part of multiple voices at once then add 'CHORUS' to the label.
- *Where to upload to:* <https://www.dropbox.com/request/PCi9mr6NjU98ijgYWAWH>
- *Upload Deadline:* Friday 4th December

LYRICS:

The Blessing:

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace

Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace

Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen

May His favour be upon you
And a thousand generations
Your family and your children
And their children, and their children

May His presence go before you
And behind you, and beside you
All around you, and within you
He is with you, He is with you

In the morning, in the evening
In your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing
He is for you, He is for you

He is for you, He is for you
He is for you, He is for you
He is for you, He is for you
He is for you, He is for you

Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen

Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen