



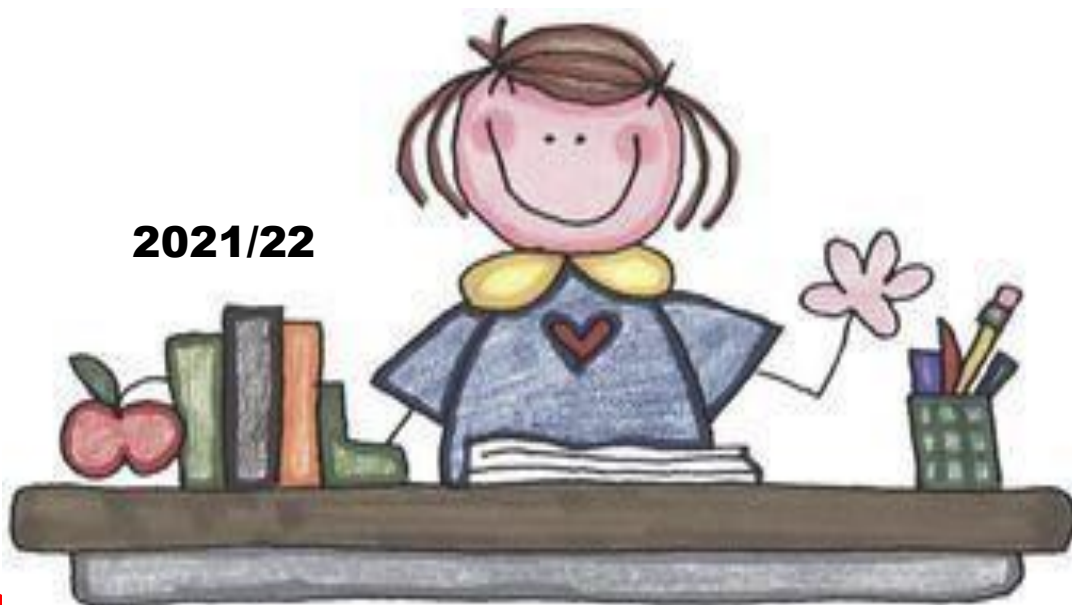
St. Albans C. of E.
Primary School

Welcome to our lovely school!

For the

**Parents of
Foundation Stage 1
Pupils**

2021/22



Our Vision:



Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Mission Statement

St Alban's School is a community that seeks to base its life on the love of God shown in Jesus Christ; to be open to the Spirit of God; and to serve the Kingdom of God.

On this basis we aim to help every child discover their full potential as a child of God, spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially.

Aims

We aim to achieve this by:

- Providing a broad and balanced education by structured progress through the Early Years Foundation Stage, the National Curriculum and a range of other experiences.
- Helping every child develop a sense of self worth and self confidence.
- Valuing and developing a partnership between families and school, with local churches and the Diocese and with others in the wider community.
- Our pupils achieve well throughout the school because the quality of teaching and learning is good.

Getting your child ready for school:

Starting school is a milestone, not only for your child but also for you! You may be excited and perhaps a little concerned about your child taking these first steps towards independence. However you may feel, it is important that your child's experience of starting school is as positive as possible. After all, you are the first and most important educators of your child.



Getting your child ready for school - at home!

1. Talk to your child about school and what to expect.
2. If possible, attend the pre-school meeting.
3. Reassure your child that there are lots of new children starting school - they are not on their own.
4. Let your child wear his/her school uniform before the start day.
5. Share positive books and stories with your child about starting school.
6. Rehearse in your child's mind how they will come into school with the other children on the first day and how you (or another carer) will be waiting for them at pick up time.
7. Talk about what will be happening at home when your child is at school.
8. Talk with your child about what will be expected of them.



Expectations at School:



The following is a list of expectations that we would like all children to be able to do whilst at school. However, some children will of course find some things easier than others. If we work together both at school and home, then we can all help in the development of your child.

We would like all children to be able to:

- ✓ Do what they are told by an adult.
- ✓ Co-operate and share with friends.
- ✓ Be responsible for looking after things.
- ✓ Understand that there are quieter times to listen and learn and noisier times to play.
- ✓ Regularly take books home to share.
- ✓ Not bring in toys from home unless asked to.
- ✓ Concentrate for longer periods than they may have done at a previous nursery or playgroup.
- ✓ Follow school and classroom rules.
- ✓ Go to the toilet independently.
- ✓ Put on their coat independently and have a go at fastening it.



Getting Started:

The first half term in school is all about getting to know each other. The children come from a wide variety of settings and some may not know any other children in their class. Don't worry about this- it's amazing how quickly children make friends.



During this half term, staff will observe and work with your child making judgements regarding the best way to engage them and take their learning forward.

We operate a staggered entry system into school. Your child is given an individual start date which allows us to settle the children and get them used to some of the school and class routines.



This is very much a settling in period and works very well so that children (as well as parents) can adjust. We have effective communication systems in place so don't worry, you will be kept fully informed about how your child is settling into school!

The Early Years Foundation Stage

(EYFS) in FS1:

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven areas of Learning and Development. The three prime areas are:

- Communication and Language;
- Physical Development;
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.



These prime areas are most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in four specific areas. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the World;
- Expressive Arts and Design.

These seven areas together are used to plan your child's learning and activities in Reception. Children in the EYFS learn by creative and critical thinking, by playing, exploring and being active - both indoors and outside. Assessments are made throughout the year and are based on observations and knowledge of the whole child.



Uniform:

Our uniform gives a strong sense of identity, it looks smart, allows children to be easily recognisable when out and about on visits and prevents early morning stresses on what to wear.

Uniform - The Important Bits!

Red jumper/cardigan/sweatshirt (approved logo from A-Print or plain without a logo also an option from most supermarkets).

White or red polo shirt.

Black trouser/skirt/pinafore/shorts.

Red gingham summer dress (optional)

www.aprint.co.uk

01709 709977

The FS1 children spend time outside each day whatever the weather.

Please dress your children appropriately for our varied climate!

Children need a book bag that they need to bring to school every day.



Other Important Information:

The School Day:

Morning session – 8:40-11:40 am

Afternoon session – 12:00pm -3:00pm

If you qualify for 30 ours the session will be 8:40 am – 3:00pm

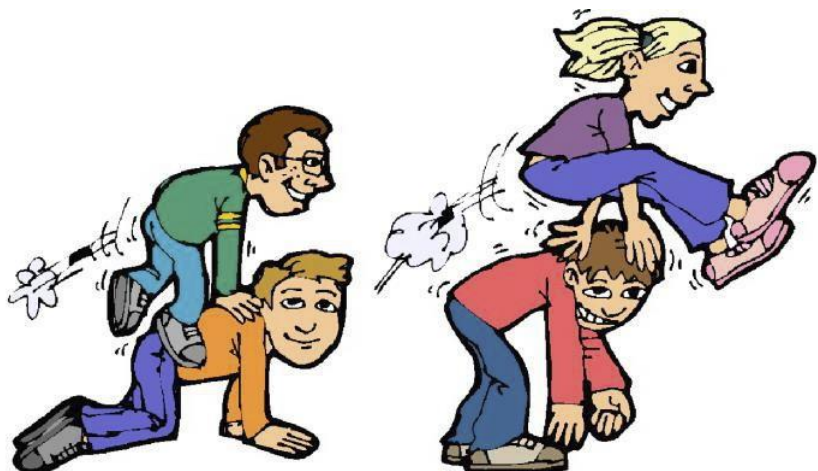
We will expect children to get into good habits straight away and to be on time - otherwise they will miss out on a vital aspects of their learning.

Playtimes/free flow

The Foundation Stage has its own special outside area, which is very well equipped to facilitate learning and play. Children can access this area which is shared with FS2 throughout the day as part of their continuous provision.

Home School Communication

For milestones that your child reaches or any new steps they want to share- Class Dojo will be used for this. In September, your class teacher will provide you with your child's username and password. More information about class dojo can be found on our website. In preparation for September, download the app at: <https://www.classdojo.com>. Pictures, videos or written explanation can be put onto your child's portfolio. The teacher will look at this once a week and make a comment.



Lunchtimes:

FS1 children go into dinner slightly earlier than the rest of school at 11.30am as it allows them to feel settled and relaxed more quickly.

At the start of term the teacher and T.A. will accompany the children into the hall to help them settle into the new routines. A specially assigned lunch time supervisor stays with the children and helps them with their food. The children need to bring their own packed lunch.



Snacks:

Please send your child with a named water bottle every day which your child then has access to throughout the day. In FS1 we use snack time as a social time where all the children can sit together and enjoy a snack. We do encourage healthy eating at snack time and this gives a perfect opportunity for the children to learn about it. If your child has any food allergies or dietary requirements we do ask that you let us know about them.

End of the Day:

School finishes at 3pm each day. Parents and carers are asked to collect children from outside the Foundation Stage classroom area. Children will not be allowed to go with any other adult without your permission and; we will therefore agree a password that can be used over the year to aid security. In order to avoid difficulties, please let us know if you have made arrangements for someone else to collect your child from school.

Religious Education:

As a church school we share Bible stories in our class and say our class prayer daily. In FS1 we don't attend collective worship, but we do follow and implement the Christian values of the school .

Homework:

Each child has a reading book(s) to share and enjoy at home which will be changed at least once a week. These can be kept in the child's school book bag which can be purchased from APrint. Children will also need to practise learning their letter sounds as well as learning to read and spell high frequency 'tricky' words. Children may also be given other small tasks to do at home.

Rewards:

Our positive ethos means that we believe in giving praise and encouragement to children for their efforts and achievements, both socially and academically. Children are assigned one of our House Teams – Jericho, Carmel, Sinai or Jordan and are given house points as rewards for excellent behaviour, attitude and learning. Children are given points in the form of counters to go in a jar for their house. This promotes a sense of belonging and community from an early age and the importance of team work. They are also given stickers for personal accomplishment. Each week we have two stars of the week and these are awarded for good behaviour, hard work, acts of kindness and following instructions. A certificate will be sent home if your child is rewarded star of the week.

Absence:

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, then please inform us as soon as possible in order that we know what is happening. This can be through your child's teacher or via the school office. If your child has a medical appointment, then also please let us know.



If we work together through home and school, then
we can all ensure that your child reaches their full and
amazing potential!



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