

# ST ALBAN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Educating for life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

Welcome back, I hope that you have had a peaceful half term. Here are a few things that happened in the busy month of October.

## Child-friendly anti-bullying policy

This half term we have worked with our children to create a child-friendly anti-bullying policy. This has been shared with all children during PSHE sessions and next week House Leaders are leading an assembly that explains the policy in a child friendly way (expect lots of drama!).

At school we use the word 'STOP' to identify bullying:

Several, Times, On, Purpose

At St Alban's we value courage. It takes courage to speak out if someone is treating you badly or to speak out for someone who is being bullied. This policy tells children exactly what to do if they experience bullying.

Whilst we are immensely proud of our school we are not complacent and regularly address bullying.

A copy of this policy can be found on our school website.



## London

In late October, year 6 enjoyed a residential trip to London. This was to support their school learning based on crime and punishment. They enjoyed a trip to London Tower, The National History Museum, The Tate Gallery and also watched Matilda at the West End.

On behalf of the children I'd like to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to Mrs Cooper, who has invested so much of her time organising this mammoth trip. She is such an asset to our school and we are truly grateful for her hard work.

Not forgetting Mrs Jepson, Miss Nightingale and Mr Thompson who took such good care of the class. As expected, the pupils behaviour was exceptional - well done year 6!

## Christmas is coming

It is nearly Christmas!  
Well, actually no it isn't but we have to start thinking about Christmas in school. Over the next few weeks teachers will be sending home words and songs for children to learn for school productions. If you need any support with costumes then please let the class teacher know.

On the 7th December, children in Reception to Year 6 are going to watch *Beauty and the Beast*. Children will be expected to wear school uniform and we will return to school by approximately 4pm. On this day, all school clubs will be cancelled.

Nursery will be open as usual, and the children can look forward to this trip when they are in our Reception class.

The 14th of December is our Christmas themed day. On this day children can have a Christmas school dinner, wear Christmas clothes and hopefully receive a present from Mr C.

## Playground Leaders, Dining Room Helpers and Reading Tutors

In a society which is increasingly showing signs of isolation and disintegration, we value our role as a school in the development of pupils' sense of responsibility, belonging and ownership of their own school and local community.

This is why we encourage children to take on leadership roles. Here is an explanation of a few responsibilities our children are involved with at school:

**Playground leaders** are older children who take care of younger children at lunchtimes. They organise games and activities and make sure that everyone has someone to play with.

**Dining room helpers** encourage younger children to try different foods, use cutlery, drink water and sit properly in the dining hall.

**Reading tutors** have been trained by myself, and listen to younger children read regularly.

Sending a clear message that reading is important and very cool!

## The Oakes



Year 5 recently went on a residential trip to the Oakes activity centre. This is a christian centre especially designed for young people. The children got very muddy on the mudder and building rafts. They enjoyed marshmallows by the camp fire and found out so much about Jesus.

A huge thank you to Mrs Staniforth for organising this special trip and to Mrs Jepson for taking care of the children.

The Oakes staff were very impressed with year 5's behaviour and their responses to some of the bigger, deeper questions.

## Kind

In collective worship we have been learning about kindness. Over the next few weeks we will explore what the Bible teaches us about kindness and I'll set a kindness challenge. For example,

**The Bible says: Proverbs 26v20**

**Not gossiping**, 'Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.' Then I have set the children kindness challenge, **Be humble give credit to others**. We have explored how it is not easy to 'fake' being kind. Real kindness is selfless, loving and costs us something, maybe time, money or effort.

## Spelling

This half term, teachers have been learning more about the science of memory. We love learning about how the memory works! What are the most efficient strategies to help our children learn and remember more? Some children find learning spellings easy and some find it hard. Our aim is to find the best ways to lock in those spellings to develop fluent writers.

We are excited to use these strategies with the children and have purchased spelling dictionaries for KS2.

Children can improve their spelling by practising at home. We have worksheets that they can use and a program called Spelling Shed. Hopefully, you have noticed your children applying some of the strategies that they have used at school, at home. Later on in the year, we will share some of these strategies with you.

## Important Dates

### November

1st November	Pupils Return to o school
4th November 2:20-3:00	Foundation 1 Parent Meeting
8th November (3pm-5:30pm)	Face to face parents evening

### December

6th December	Nursery Nativity (am) Reception Nativity (pm)
7th December 1pm-4pm	Whole school trip to the pantomime
8th December	Year 1 Nativity (pm) Year 2 Nativity (am)
12th December	Year 3 Production (am) Year 4 Production( pm)
13th December	Year 5 Production (am) Year 6 Production (pm)
14th December	Christmas Day (Christmas dinner and children can wear Christmas clothes)
16th December	School closes at 1:30pm

Thank you for your ongoing support. Look out for our December newsletter, December will be here in no time!

Mrs Gurner

Head teacher