

ST ALBAN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Leadership Changes

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter. In this letter we will celebrate the last half term and share with you all the exciting things we have planned in the build up to Christmas.

From January 2024, I have been asked to take on an executive role at Trinity Croft and Thrybergh Fullerton. Both schools belong to our trust and have an established relationship with St Alban's. Please be reassured that this new collaborative relationship will truly add to your children's education. Each school has a gift to share and as proverbs 27:17 proclaims: 'As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another'. Four schools working together will keep us razor sharp!

In January, Mrs Higson will be joining the St Alban's team as the Head of School. She is an experienced leader who currently works at a DSAT school in Sheffield. I plan to base myself at St Alban's until Mrs Higson is familiar with the St Alban's way, and gets to know the children and community well.

Church Services

Thank you so much for your generous harvest donations. The church was filled with offerings that will be distributed to Rotherham food bank.



The children were superb in Church, it was as if we had never been away. They knew exactly when to be quiet, when to sing and were respectful of the church building. As we left, Joyce and Stella had the biggest smiles and commented on how proud they were of the children.

Holy Communion was on the last Friday before we broke up for the holidays- the rainy day! Year 6 did a great job reading Bible verses and prayers and everyone in church was invited for a blessing or to take bread.

Helen Terry will be leading school services at St Alban's. A proud Rotherham girl, Helen is looking forward to working in the place where she grew. The children loved her services and we feel blessed knowing that she has oversight of our school.

Upcoming Church Services-parents are welcome.

Year 2 and 3 Bible Presentation

Friday 10th November, 8:40am- 10:00am

KS2 Christmas Production

Tuesday 19th December,

Showing 1, 1:30pm, Showing 2, 5:00pm

Holy Communion

Friday 9th February 2024, 8:40am-10am

PE Kit- HELP

In the summer term, parents voted for children to come to school wearing PE school uniform on PE days.

Coming to school wearing PE kit has resulted in children having more time in PE and the children seem to like this routine. However, about 5% of children are seeing PE days as non-uniform by wearing branded tops and bottoms. On PE days children need to wear PE uniform, which is plain black tracksuit (no brands) and a plain white T-shirt.

Why is uniform important at St Alban's?

- It promotes a sense of belonging.
- Can reduce peer pressure and bullying.
- Enhances focus on learning by creating a more formal academic atmosphere in school.
- Encourages discipline and responsibility.
- Saves time and stress.
- Promotes school pride.

This half term, we will be sending reminder letters home to children who do not wear PE school uniform. Thank you for your ongoing support with this matter. I do understand how children like to bend the rules (my children do this often) but together we can keep standards high.



Safeguarding Survey

In the summer term, we surveyed the children and discussed safeguarding in school.

We do this every year to assess the quality of our PSHE curriculum and to find out how safe children feel at school.

We were really impressed with our students' responses. They knew how to stay safe online and could discuss how adults keep them safe.

Some children commented that they didn't feel safe at the bottom gate (Tanyard gate) as they felt that people could see them playing.

For this reason, Mr Hetherington has screened off the gate using ivy. We want to send out a clear message to children that we listen to their concerns and want them to feel safe.

One of the ways that we can protect our children is by teaching them about what to do when something does not feel right. Children study this in PSHE but in this link you will also find a copy of our [Child Friendly Safeguarding Policy](#).

Please remember, if you ever have any safeguarding concerns, please speak to myself, Mr Frelich or Mrs Cooper as we are the designated safeguarding leads for the school.

This year in PSHE lessons we are going to pay particular attention to:

- Screen addiction
- Crossing roads safely, our school is situated next to two busy roads
- Online strangers

My Happy Mind

This half term, we launched a preventative program that supports positive mental health, resilience and self-esteem. School has always supported these elements, but we felt that we needed to do more.

My happy mind is based in science and research grounded in neuroscience and positive psychology.

We have just come to the end of the first module - 'Meet Your Brain'. The children learned so much through this module including:

- The different parts of our brain and how they help us.
- How to use Happy breathing to help us when we feel sad, stressed or worried.
- What happens in our brain when we learn something new and how we can look after our brain.

Why not ask your children to tell you what they have learnt? Here's some questions to help you:

Who is Team H-A-P? Can you tell me about the Team in your brain?

Why does Happy Breathing help you and when could you use it?

Can you tell me what Neuroplasticity means?
When has your brain grown?

Parent Curriculum Meetings

This year, we are going to continue hosting parent workshops. The workshops give parents a little spotlight into a part of school life. In October, we led a 'My Happy Mind' workshop and we have lots more planned. If you would like a particular insight, then please drop me a message on class dojo and we will try to accommodate this.

Upcoming parent meetings:

Thursday 16th November, 2:15pm-3pm

How do we teach Handwriting at St Alban's

Thursday 23rd November, 2:15pm-3:00pm

How to support the early stages of reading (EYFS and KS1 parents)

We understand that due to other commitments some parents struggle to make these meetings- would a zoom option be helpful? We want to reach as many parents as possible.

If you would like any handouts then please message me personally and I'll make sure they reach you.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mrs Gurner



Important Dates

Date and Time	Event
1 st November	All children return to school
1 st November	Year 6 Crucial Crew Trip
7 th November	Nursery Parent Meeting (2:15pm-3:00pm)
16 th November	Parents Meeting, Handwriting focus (2:15pm-3:00pm)
21 st November	Year 1 phonic parent meeting
29 th November	PTA Christmas Market, adults only (evening)
6 th December	Whole school (not nursery) pantomime at Civic Theatre
11 th December	Year 1 Christmas Production (pm)
12 th December	Year 2 Christmas Production (am)
12 th December	Infant Christmas Disco, Reception- Year 2, (3:00-4:00pm)
12 th December	Junior Disco (4:15pm-5:30pm)
13 th December	Christmas Lunch- order on Lunchhound
13 th December	Reception Production - afternoon
14 th December	Nursery Production - morning
18 th December	PTA Christmas Fair
19 th December	KS2 production in Church, 2 showings, 1:30pm and 5:00pm
22 nd December	SCHOOL INSET- School closed to children.
8 th January	Back to school - Happy 2024!