

ST ALBAN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! We hope that you've had a wonderful Christmas and are ready to embrace everything that 2024 has in store.

Firstly, congratulations to Mrs. Cartledge, our Year 5 teacher, who is now on maternity leave until the Summer. We wish her all the best during this special time as she welcomes a new addition to her family. We are delighted to introduce Mrs. Mottershaw, who will be covering Mrs. Cartledge's maternity leave.

In addition, we are excited to welcome Mrs. Higson as the new Head of School at St. Alban's. Over the next few weeks, Mrs. Higson will be familiarising herself with the St. Alban's way and getting to know all our children and families. To provide support during this transition, I will be at St. Alban's most days, not only to assist Mrs. Higson in her role but also because being away from the school will be a challenge for me. Your warm welcome to both Mrs. Mottershaw and Mrs. Higson is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to them becoming integral members of our school.



New Nature Zone

We are thrilled to share a special project that is set to enhance the learning environment for our Key Stage 2 children - the creation of a Reading Nature Area in their playground.

Aspen Lodges, the creative minds behind the thatched roof adventure area in the foundation stage, have kindly brought our vision to life by designing this new space for our school. A heartfelt thank you to Aspen Lodges for their invaluable contribution!

This space will serve as a quiet retreat for children to gather with their friends, surrounded by the beauty of nature. The concept aims to provide a peaceful environment for reading and socialising.

We are so grateful to our PTA for making this project possible. Your attendance at PTA events and your generous contributions have played a vital role in funding the development of this area. Without your support, the realisation of this project would not be within reach.



Katie Shemwell and Leanne Wordsall have played vital roles in spearheading the PTA, and this year, they are passing on the PTA baton. As we embark on this transition, we are seeking new members to join our PTA team. Thomas Lawrence, a member of our school board, will provide support to all new members, working alongside Katie, who will continue her role in the school office.

Ideally, new members will have the opportunity to collaborate with both Leanne and Katie during this year, ensuring a seamless transition and benefiting from their wealth of experience. Katie and Leanne are enthusiastic about welcoming fresh perspectives and ideas, and they are more than willing to share their expertise with the new members.

If you are interested in becoming part of the PTA and contributing to our school community, we encourage you to reach out.

Here are a few reasons why you may want to join the PTA:

1. Supporting Your Child's Education
2. Community Building
3. Networking Opportunities
4. Personal Growth
5. Positive Impact on School Culture

We welcome, parents and grandparents to join the PTA. If you are interested then please pop into the school office and have a chat with Mrs Shemwell. More information to follow.

Collective Worship

This half term, our collective worship will explore The Life of Jesus. We will look into various aspects, starting with Jesus' childhood, moving on to his preparation for ministry, and reflecting on his healing and teachings.

House Sinai leaders have planned to spend time in each class learning more about Bibles. They will read stories and show children a fun Bible game.

Within classrooms, we are enhancing prayer areas. Equipped with a world map, children will be encouraged to reflect on people in different regions and offer heartfelt prayers or positive thoughts. To symbolise these prayers, children can light LED candles, representing the notion that their positive thoughts and prayers serve as shining lights in the world.

A guiding Bible verse for this term is Numbers 6:24-26: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."



My Happy Mind

Last half term, we have continued to work on the schools' preventative program that supports positive mental health and resilience.

We have just come to the end of the Celebrate module in myHappyMind. The children have learnt so much through this module including:

- What character strengths are and why they matter.
- How to recognise character strengths in ourselves and others.
- How understanding our character strengths can make us feel.

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

- What is your top Character Strength?
- Which strength would you like to grow and use more?
- Why is it important to spot Character strengths in other people?

This half term we are focussing on gratitude - how can we develop an attitude of gratitude?



Geography Fieldwork Month



October was "Geography fieldwork month" at St.Alban's. Fieldwork is where you go outside the classroom and find things out for yourself.

Over the last month, our students have had the opportunity to explore the local area and learn in a more practical, hands-on way in geography.

Each class was given a different enquiry question that they had to try and answer using a variety of progressive fieldwork skills.

Children across school completed maps, surveys, time sampling, tallies, pictograms and digital mapping linked to their enquiry question.

Children then used the information that they had gathered to draw their own conclusions.

Each class had the opportunity to present their findings to the rest of the school. Children were very adept at explaining what they did and what they found out.

Well done St.Alban's- we are all geographers!

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mrs Gurner and Mrs Higson

Important Dates

Date and Time	Event
Thursday 18 th January 2024	Y5 Norse Visitor
Friday 19 th January 2024	Y1 Visitor - Fire of London
Tuesday 23 rd January 2024 at 2.00-3:00pm	KS2 Parent Meeting How to teach your child to tell the time
Friday 26 th January 2024 at 2.15- 3:00pm	EYFS and KS1 Parent Meeting How to listen to your child read
Thursday 8 th February 2024	Young Voices Concert
Friday 9 th February 2024 at 8.45am	Holy Communion at Church Parents welcome
Friday 9 th February at 3:00pm	Break up for February Half Term
Monday 19 th February 8:30am	Return to school

For all the latest dates, please subscribe to the school calendar on our website.

<https://wsap.academy/events/month/2024-02/>