

ST ALBAN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Happy New Year!

Wow! What an amazing start to 2024 we have had here at St Alban's!

It's been a short-but-busy term, but children once again thrown themselves into every opportunity given - competitions, D&T projects, Student Leadership...

There are quite a few key dates this half-term, so keep an eye on the calendar and any texts from school. We have some incredible visits and parent afternoons planned. We also have Parents Meetings on the 28th March - more information to follow.

It has been wonderful to see so many parents, carers and family members taking part in our Maths and Reading workshops, and we have really appreciated your feedback on these. A few parents have asked about slides or recordings of meetings when they have been unable to come. We have reflected on this and will do this where possible in the future, starting with our Year 6 parent meeting in the first week back, where it will be repeated on Zoom later in the week and then recorded so you can watch when you can.



House Sinai Taking the Lead

In January, our wonderful House Sinai leaders led Bible based games and activities with pupils in each year group.

In Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1, children had Bible stories read to them with some amazing expression and fantastic questions.

In Key Stage 2, pupils were challenged by house leaders to find Bible verses as quickly as possible, and then had other familiar verses to order.

Student Leadership is so important and we are very proud of everyone who took part.



Attendance Policy Changes

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

There have been several changes to our Attendance Policy this year, in line with other schools in DSAT (our Academy Trust). This is to ensure that we can support with punctuality and attendance as much as possible.

Key changes include:

- First day contact with parents when a pupil doesn't come to school without prior notification. Office staff will call parents after 9.30am if a child is not in school.
- We have always been unable to authorise holidays in term time and we will refer any cases of unauthorised holiday absence that meet Local Authority thresholds for the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice, currently £60 per parent/per child for any leave of absence of 5 days or more.

If you would like to read the Attendance Policy then please see our website, or contact the school office.



We had a great response to our plea for new PTA members last month. Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest- we are hoping to meet for a chat this half-term.

If anyone still wants to join, then please send Mrs Higson a message.

Collective Worship

After February half-term, our collective worship will focus on Lent, forgiveness and then the Holy Week as we come up to Easter. We will also continue to look at more of key events from the Life of Jesus and reflect on how we can learn from these.

As Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday fall in the half-term holidays this year, please share your photos with us on Class Dojo if you have any of your child taking part in activities (like making pancakes!) or attending services. It's always great to see worship outside of school.

In classroom prayer areas, pupils will have the opportunity to write a Lenten promise on a cross to then take with them to remind them of the commitment that have made.

May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of your forgiveness and the gift of your light.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.



My Happy Mind

My Happy Mind is our school's preventative program that supports positive mental health and resilience.

Before Christmas we developed the skills of:

- Happy Breathing
- Neuroplasticity
- Strength Spotting

And we can now add a brand new strategy to our toolkits: Attitude for Gratitude.

Pupils have spent the last 5 weeks...

- Learning what gratitude is.
- Learning about all the different ways to express gratitude.
- Learning why gratitude is so important

One quotation we have kept revisiting is:

'Feeling gratitude and not expressing it, is like receiving a present and not opening it.'

A great thing to do at home, especially at the dinner table, is to spend a brief moment reflecting on the day and sharing something you are all grateful for.

I am grateful for....because....

This half term we are moving our focus to relationships. Relationships with friends, family and the wider community, and why is it important to have positive relationships in our lives.



Spotlight on... Design and Technology

In Year 6 this half-term, pupils worked closely with children in Year 2 to create their final projects.

First of all children in Miss Widdop's class designed their own amygdala - the part of the brain which helps us with fight or flight response- as part of their My Happy Mind learning about mental health. Then Year 6 children were paired up with a Year 2 client to work for. Pupils met to discuss their ideas and then Mrs Cooper's class put the plans into action.



As you can see, the results were amazing, and all of the pupils involved loved having

A huge 'Thank You' to all of the parent, carer and family volunteers who came in to support the big sewing session. It was a busy afternoon!



Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mrs Gurner and Mrs Higson

Important Dates

| Date and Time | Event |
|---|---|
| Tuesday 20th February at 2.15pm | Y6 SATs meeting for parents |
| Thursday 22nd February at 3.30pm (Zoom) | Y6 SATs meeting for parents (repeat of Tuesday) |
| Friday 27th February | Year 4 Visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park |
| Thursday 29th February | Parent Workshop: The St Alban's Approach to Behaviour |
| Wednesday 6th March 2pm | Lent Service at Church KS2 |
| Thursday 7th March | Year 5 Parent Afternoon |
| Friday 8th March | World Book Day |
| Monday 11th March | Year 4 Parent Morning - sculpture |
| Tuesday 12th March | Year 2 Parent Morning - bridge building |
| Wednesday 13th March 2pm | Lent Service at Church KS2 |
| Thursday 14th March 2.15pm | Parent workshop: Keeping your child safe online |
| Friday 15th March | Y3 Visit to Murton Park |
| Wednesday 20th March 2pm | Lent Service at Church KS2 |
| Friday 22nd March | Year 2 Visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park |
| Monday 25th March | PTA Easter Fair |
| In school for children, 3-4pm parents | |
| Thursday 28th March | INSET Day - no school for pupils |
| Thursday 28th March | Parent Meetings |
| Friday 29th March | Break up for Easter holiday |
| Monday 15th April | Return to school |

For all the latest dates, please subscribe to the school calendar on our website.
<https://wsap.academy/events/month/2024-02/>