

ST ALBAN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Welcome

Another very busy half-term has passed, and we are already moving into Winter. We have had two residential visits already, to The Oakes and to London, and our Year 4s met Sir Anthony Gormley at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, so it has been an eventful one.

Thank you to all parents who have supported on trips and who have attended our class workshops- we couldn't do these without you!

As we move into December, we recognise that the number of events at school seems to soar! We know that not everyone can come to every event, so endeavour to make sure that you still get a flavour of all of these wonderful experiences through ClassDojo.



Trips, Visits and Visitors

We know that when we ask children what they love about school, trips and visits are usually the first thing that they say! We are very lucky to have an ambitious curriculum which includes a wealth of experiences for our children.

Residentials in particular a big part of being a 'St Alban's Kid' and the three which we run are absolute highlights of the year. Being outside in the world brings out the best in our children and gives them the chance to develop independence, resilience and problem solving, in a way we just can't do at school. We also have a range of visitors throughout the year to bring history and other areas of the curriculum to life- as I write this there is an Ancient Greek giving a combat lesson next door!

Trips still to come this year include: Castleton residential (Y4), Cleethorpes (FS2), Park Visit (FS1), Houses of Parliament (Y3), Alton Towers (Y6), Butterfly House (Y1), Yorkshire Wildlife Park (Y2) and Weston Park Museum (Y5).

Adverse Weather

What are the school procedures for adverse weather conditions?

It's getting to the time of year again when we start looking at procedures surround adverse weather. Our priority in icy and snowy conditions is always to keep our children, staff and families as safe as possible.

If a decision is made to not open school first thing in the morning due to adverse conditions, this would be posted on ClassDojo, the school website, and passed on to the local radio stations. School work would then be provided online for pupils to complete.

If school does close due to bad weather during the day, we will inform parents through ClassDojo. On the day of the closure, there would be no additional work provided as staff make their way home safely. Any additional home learning or virtual learning would commence the following day.

Thank you for your support.



To volunteer for the PTA or to find out more information about events taking place this year, please join the PTA WhatsApp group.



Collective Worship

So far this half-term we have had a real focus on Remembrance in our Collective Worship sessions. Children have learnt about Armistice Day and the significance of the poppy, and we held 2 minutes silence on the 11th November.

In addition to this, we have spent time thinking of people (and pets) who are no longer with us. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response to our Memory Tree in the hall, which is now filled with names and beautiful messages about loved ones.

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot
be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your
love; and bring us all, with them, to
your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

As we enter December we will be thinking about Advent, and how we prepare for something special. Alongside the tinsel, elves and decorated trees, we will be reflecting on how we prepare for something or someone special, and how special we are for God to give us his only son.



My Happy Mind

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



We are now in the second year of MyHappyMind and so our learning is even more in-depth that it was last year. We started off the year with Meet Your Brain again - revisiting H-A-P.

The Hippocampus, Amygdala and Pre-frontal cortex all work together to help us to learn and be our best selves. When we are afraid, or worried our Amygdala can take over and make it really tricky to make good decisions.

Through learning about the brain, children have a better understanding of why they think what they think, and why they feel the way that they do. Techniques such as Happy Breathing are taught to help them manage this and to break out of 'fight or flight' responses.

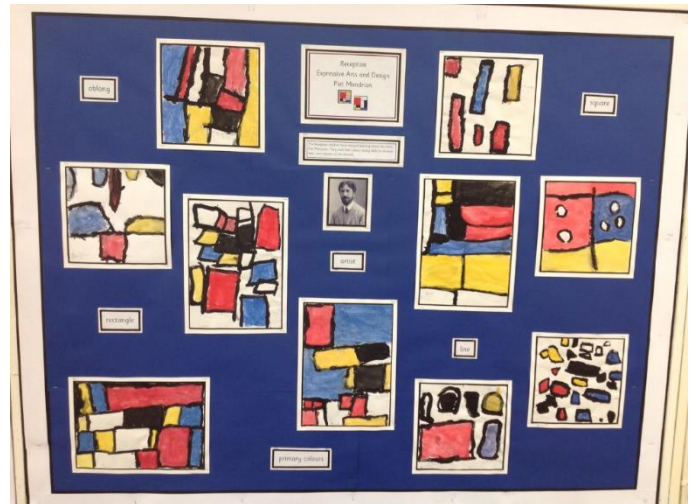
Our House Jordan leaders have even been into Key Stage 1 to support them to learn the techniques as part of their work as Mental Health Ambassadors in school.



Spotlight on... EYFS Painting

This is the first full year that we are following our brand-new painting curriculum at St Alban's. In each year group, children learn about a particular artist and then study one of their paintings. This helps children to build up the foundations of art before they move onto KS1.

In Reception children have learnt about Piet Mondrian and then created their own geometric masterpieces. Pupils have had to mix their own powder paint, paint careful lines and then fill in the spaces.



Even our Nursery children start learning how to mix our powder paints. They have to wet the brush, dip into the paint powder, and then mix it in the palette.



Important Dates

Date and Time	Event
Sports Leader Bake Sale	Thursday 21 st November (3pm)
Whole School Pantomime Visit (FS2-Y6)	Thursday 28 th November (am)
Year 5 Meeting about London 2025	Thursday 28 th November 3pm
Christmas Performances Y1&2	Tuesday 10 th December 9am (Y1 parents)
Y1&2	Tuesday 10 th December 2pm (Y2 parents)
EYFS	Thursday 12 th December 9am (Nursery parents)
EYFS	Thursday 12 th December 2pm (Reception parents)
KS2	Tuesday 17 th December 9am (Parents welcome)
KS2	Tuesday 17 th December 5.30pm (Parents welcome)
Christmas Performances Y1&2	Tuesday 10 th December 9am (Y1 parents)
Y1&2	Tuesday 10 th December 2pm (Y2 parents)
EYFS	Thursday 12 th December 9am (Nursery parents)
Wear Your Christmas Jumper Day	Tuesday 17 th December
PTA Christmas Fair	Wednesday 18 th December In school time for children, 3pm for parents to join.

We do our best to ensure dates are correct at the time of publication, however occasionally these need to be amended. Please check the ClassDojo calendar and Newsfeed to keep abreast of any changes.

For all the latest dates, please subscribe to the school calendar on our website.
<https://wsap.academy/events/month/2024-11/>