

School Newsletter

September 2018



ST. ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEAD THE WAY

Welcome to the Autumn term

A very warm “welcome” or “welcome back” to all our St Alban’s children, parents and staff. We hope you enjoyed the long hot summer and are ready for another exciting school year. An extra special welcome to all our new Reception children who have quickly settled into life at St Alban’s.

Reflecting on the last academic year, we were very fortunate to receive inspirational visits from the Astronaut Helen Sharman and the British Triple- Jumper Daniel Lewis. We were also offered the opportunity of a lifetime to handle a torch from the Winter Olympics! We were challenged by various educational visits, residential stays and sports tournaments and enjoyed participating in a number of performances and dress up days. Our Year 6 children achieved *remarkable* results in their Key Stage 2 SATS, scoring 100% in both Reading & Grammar and Punctuation & Spelling and far exceeding the national average in all areas.

As we return for the 2018-2019 academic year, you may notice some wonderful improvements to the school which have taken place over the summer holidays. These include the newly redecorated Reception classrooms and communal areas within the school, which were kindly provided by the MAT. We also have new lighting along the length of the school entrance which was part-paid for by a grant from Elmbridge council.

Going forward, please remember that school gates open at 8.40am. It is great to see so many children arriving early for school as this equates to an extra 75 minutes of learning each week, which really adds up over the course of the year!

I know together we will make this another really successful year. Thank you for your continued support as we are all ambassadors for St Alban’s.

Mr Brannigan





September highlights

Drama workshops

Last week, Year 4 enjoyed an action-packed afternoon learning how to be Roman soldiers, following commands and showing military discipline. They used freeze framing to show different Roman gods as well as acting out the story of Romulus and Remus.



The Year 6 children also had a great time experiencing 'Evacuation' from London, learning war time songs and acting out war time scenarios. They were able to share and extend their developing knowledge of WWII history.





Head Boy & Girl

We are pleased to announce that Scarlett Barlow and Hugo O'Leary are our new Head Girl and Head Boy. The Year 6's are off to a great start helping out with various jobs around the school. They are showing excellent leadership and responsibility in their roles as the oldest children in the school.



School Parliament

Our newly elected School Parliament members are:

Year 3	Asa Wallingford, Olivia Urbaniak, Zain Abou Hasan, Amelia Pawlusewicz
Year 4	Jacob Bance, Evangeline O'Leary
Year 5	Edward Crampsie, Ella Robinson
Year 6	Avina Nagarajah, Jules Narcisi, Scarlett Barlow, Hugo O'Leary

School Parliament has already met with Mr Brannigan to talk about what it means to be part of the Parliament. Next, they will meet with Mrs Hollingshurst to have their roles allocated and discuss new ideas for the development of the school.

The Green Team

As part of one of our Gospel assemblies we were talking about taking care of our world. As a result of our discussions with the children, our eco-monitors are now going to be called The Green Team and have badges to match!

We received some lovely letters from children who are keen to be part of the Green Team, including Sophia De Paula, Isobel Miler and Bea Crampsie. We hoped to include all of these in the newsletter but due to technical difficulties with some of the files, we regret that we are not able to do this. We thank you for your excellent submissions and present the two scans we were able to access, below.





The teams are as follows:

Yr 1 St Thomas
Yr 1 St George
Yr 2 St Peter
Yr 2 St Joseph
Year 3 St Paul
Year 3 St Elizabeth Ann Seton
Year 4 St Josephine
Year 5 St John the Baptist
Year 6 St Mother Teresa

Catherine Ivanova, Archie Shaw
Sophia De Paula, Kieran Egginton
Isobel Miller, Bea Crampsie
Oscar Davies, Millie Windridge
Leane Knoetze, Archie Baker
Eleanor Joicey, Henry Robbens
Isabel Denis, William Davies
Andre Luk, Kathryn McKerracher
Tilly-Mae Cooper, Lily-Mae Greer,
Jessica Hull, Evie Cooper

Announcements

We are very pleased to welcome a number of new staff to St Alban's. These are Miss Frost (LSA), Miss Viney (Breakfast & After School Club Play worker), Mr Hawkins (Caretaker) and Mrs Mamian Perafan (LSA). We looking forward to working with you and wish you all the best in your new roles.



Key contacts

A word from the Governors

The Governors of St Alban's work as a team in close co-operation with the Head Teacher and all staff. The Governing body, together with the staff seek to contribute and strengthen the Catholic character of our school and the Catholic nature of all we do.

We are proud to be part of such a happy, safe and vibrant Outstanding Catholic school which is consistently one of the top performing primary schools in Surrey and the whole of the country. We continually strive to make the school even better for each of its pupils. Plans are currently underway for a further astro-turf pitch and to purchase more tablets for the children using the Governor fund which you as parents contribute too.

To find out more about the Governors at St Alban's, please look at the school website.

Polly Narcisi Chair of Governors
Alison Ebert Vice Chair

Key staff teams

For our new parents, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our key SLT, SEN and DSL members.

Senior Leadership Team

Mr M Brannigan	Headteacher
Mrs J Bishop	Deputy Headteacher
Miss Catherine Clarke	Assistant Headteacher
Miss E Daly	Acting Assistant Headteacher
Mrs C Martin	Extended SLT
Mrs A Mettrick	Extended SLT

SEN Team

Mrs Jane Bishop	SENCO
Miss Sara Alston	SEN Consultant

Safeguarding Team

Miss Catherine Clarke	Designated DSL Lead
Mr Brannigan	DSL
Mrs Bishop	DSL



Dates to note

Monday 1st October – Whole-school Maths Day

On this day, each class will participate in a Maths workshop based around the theme 'Race to Space'. As an added bonus, children can also come to school dressed as an astronaut or an alien. It promises to be a fun day of Maths learning, developing reasoning and problem solving.

From Wednesday 3rd October – Lunchtime Prayer Club

We will be starting our lunchtime prayer club again from the 3rd October. All children are welcome. It will take place in our prayer room at 12:10pm every Wednesday lunchtime.

Thursday 4th October – Yr 2 Cake sale

Year 2 have been learning about schools in Africa this term and will be holding a cake sale Thursday 4th October to raise funds to buy books for the library of a school in rural Malawi, through a charity called Hope4Malawi.

Thursday 11th October – Harvest Celebration 9.15am

The Harvest Service will be on Thursday 11th October, led by the Yr 1 children and all parents are most welcome to attend. At the end of the service, we will be collecting for CAFOD so we can share our many blessings with those who are in need.

Local news

Hopscotch Loyalty

Please note that Hopscotch offer a loyalty scheme where for every pair of shoes sold, they donate £1 to the school PTA.



Information from the school office

Secondary school admissions

Year 6 parents/carers please note that the secondary school online admissions system is now open. The deadline for applications is 31st October 2018 but we would *strongly encourage you to submit your application by Friday 19th October 2018* (before half term).

Naming school uniform

Please remember that all uniform must be clearly labelled with the child's full name to ensure lost items can be returned to the child as quickly as possible.

Earrings

Please note that jewellery is not to be worn at any time. Children with pierced ears should have their earrings removed before they come to school. Staff members are not permitted to remove children's earrings. Any parents wishing to have their children's ears pierced are asked to have this done at the beginning of the summer holidays so that earrings can then be left out when returning to school in September.

Request for Leave of Absence during term time

We expect that parents/carers will book their family holidays within the school holiday dates. If a holiday is taken without prior authorisation of the school, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and the Education Welfare Service will be informed. A penalty notice may be issued to the parents/carers. The issuing of a penalty notice for unauthorised leave of absence may be considered appropriate in the following circumstances:

Unauthorised leave of absence in term time (5-10 sessions or more within a 3 month period) taken without the authorisation of the school. This need not be consecutive.

Please see our Attendance Policy on the school website for more information.

If exceptional circumstances arise and a family needs to request 'leave of absence' in term time then an 'Application for Leave of absence for exceptional circumstances' must be completed (at least 2 weeks' notice should be given). This form can be obtained from the school website or school office.



Explaining absence

Please note that Mrs Byrne (attendance officer) will now only be chasing Parents/Carers for a maximum of 2 weeks following an unexplained absence, after which time it will be put down as an unauthorised absence for your child. Please can you ensure that you supply in writing, to the office, the reason for your child's absence as soon as possible to avoid you being contacted by the school office to explain their absence.

Please see attached two important documents regarding Requests for Leave of Absence and Penalties.

School uniform

A reminder that school uniform is available from the school office. Items are priced as follows. Please note that children can continue to wear items bearing the old logo in September, but we hope to phase this out by September 2019 when the logo will be fully in place.

Jumpers	£17
Cardigans	£18
Book bags	£6
Ties	£4.50 (Velcro) / £3.50 (Normal)
Water bottles	£1.20
Summer cap	£5
Winter hat	£6

Changes to pick up

Please note that if you need anyone else to collect your child from school, after school club or any of the extra-curricular activities, you must inform the office before 1pm. This information is included in the class registers which are given to each of the teachers by 1pm. Unfortunately after this time, it will not possible to inform the teachers of other arrangements.



Attendance Cup Winners

Every month our 'Attendance Cup' is awarded to the class with the highest attendance.

Attendance figures 05/09/2018 – 21/09/2018		
St Bernadette	99.38%	
St Francis	98.74%	
St Thomas	96.02%	
St George	97.79%	
St Peter	98.72%	
St Joseph	95.38%	
St Paul	97.53%	
St Elizabeth Ann Seton	98.21%	
St Josephine	98.63%	
St John the Baptist	98.33%	
Saint Mother Teresa	96.03%	

Well done to St Bernadette who achieved the highest attendance over the past month. Congratulations also to St Francis who came in second place and St Peter who were third. Every class that achieves over 97% receives a house point each. Therefore St Bernadette, St Francis, St George, St Peter, St Paul, St Elizabeth Ann Seton, St Josephine and St John the Baptist will all receive a house point. Well done to all the classes.



Autumn Term timetable

AUTUMN TERM 1 (2018)		
Friday 28th September		'Silly socks' Day (Donation: A bottle)
Thursday 4th October	9.30am	Opening Mass
Friday 5th October	All day	INSET DAY - school closed
Tuesday 9th October	9.30-10.30am	Prospective Parent Open Morning (for September 2019 entry) No booking required
Thursday 11th October	9.15am	School photos (8am start) Harvest celebration
Friday 12th October		Quiz night (School Hall)
Tuesday 16th October		Sports for Schools event with a disabled athlete
Thursday 18th October	9.30-10.30am	Prospective Parent Open Morning (for September 2019 entry) No booking required
Friday 19th October		'Wear an item of clothing in your house colours' Day (Donation: House colours gifts) End of Autumn Term 1 - school closes at normal time
AUTUMN TERM 2 (2018)		
Monday 29th October		Start of Autumn Term 2 - school re-opens at normal time
Wednesday 31st October		Nasal flu immunisation YR-5
Thursday 1st November		Fireworks night - gates open 6.30pm
Monday 5th November		Bags 2 School
Tuesday 6th November	3.30-6.00pm	Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 8th November	3.30-6.00pm	Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 16th November		Yr5 St John the Baptist fundraiser
Thursday 29th November		'Wear your own clothes' Day (Donation: Jazzy jars) Magical Molesey - school stall
Friday 30th November		Yr 6 St Mother Theresa fundraiser
Monday 3rd December	All day	School closed (school closure across all MAT schools)



Tuesday 4th December	9.30-10.30am	Prospective Parent Open Morning (for September 2019 entry) No booking required
Thursday 6th December		'Crazy hair' Day (Donation: Chocolate)
Saturday 8th December	11-2pm	Christmas Fair
Monday 10th December	2.15pm	Reception Nativity
Tuesday 11th December		Y2 St Joseph to Rose Theatre
Wednesday 12th December	11.45am	Early Christmas Lunch Y2 St Peter trip to Rose Theatre
Friday 14th December	1-3pm	Junior Disco
Monday 17th December	2.15pm	KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 18th December	6pm	KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 19th December	1pm	Early lunch KS1 Christmas party
Friday 21st December		End of Autumn Term 2 - school closes at 1pm