

THE BUZZ AT ST ALBAN'S



ST ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEAD THE WAY

TERMLY E-MAGAZINE

ISSUE 1



LEADING THE WAY

HEAR WHAT THE
HEAD/DEPUTY
GIRL/BOY HAVE TO
SAY

SPORT AT
SCHOOL

2024
NEWS
AND
MORE

FIRST EDITION

PRAYER &
LITURGY

CURRICULUM

WELCOME FROM
MISS DALY

WINTER
MENUS

FOSA
UPDATES

TRIPS

P.L.U.S

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A WARM WELCOME

Our aim is for this magazine to give insight into the rich tapestry of life at St Alban's, showcasing the creativity, curiosity, and engagement of our pupils as they grow in faith, knowledge, and character. Through their contributions, we hope you'll enjoy a window into their learning journeys and the vibrant school community that nurtures them.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to the incredible team at St Alban's. Thank you to our dedicated teachers and learning support assistants for your commitment to the education and well-being of our children. To our wonderful administrative staff and site manager, thank you for your attention to detail and care, ensuring that our school runs smoothly and remains a welcoming space for all.

Finally, a sincere thank you to you, our parents, FOSA volunteers and our governing body. Your support, encouragement, and commitment to the school community play a vital role in fostering an environment where our pupils can truly thrive.

We hope this magazine will become a cherished tradition that celebrates the achievements and stories of the children who make St Alban's such a special place.

Thank you for joining us on this journey, and we look forward to sharing more wonderful moments in the terms to come.



It is with great excitement that we introduce the first edition of our new school magazine!

This magazine, is a termly celebration of our pupils' voices, achievements, and experiences.

It provides a platform for our children to express themselves through articles they have written, reflections on their learning, and accounts of their participation in the curriculum, extra-curricular activities, and school trips.



JAMIE WATERS: HEAD BOY

HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR INITIAL SPEECH?

My name is Jamie Waters in year 6 st Oscar. I am one of the youngest in my year. My hobbies include playing football on and off the pitch. I always help my mum and the FOSA team at events and look forward to each one.

I chose a topic I was most concerned about and worked my speech around this. I asked for some guidance from my parents on how I could deliver this to my peers.

WHAT IS YOUR MAIN GOAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE AS HEAD GIRL/BOY?

My main goal this year as head boy is to reduce the amount of waste that the events make so I am really pushing with the help of FOSA to ensure everything that can be recycled is being done.



NM: DEPUTY HEADGIRL

HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR INITIAL SPEECH?

To become Deputy head girl, I wrote a speech, read it aloud to my whole family, one at a time over a few days and received their feedback.

In my speech, I talked about myself and why I'd be good for the role. For example, I love singing so I am a member of the amazing, school choir. I work hard, I love my school and I try to be friends with everybody.

WHAT IS YOUR MAIN GOAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE AS HEAD GIRL/BOY?

I have recently discovered a passion for tag rugby, thanks to the school. I've already spoken to Miss Daly about the idea of a tag rugby club because lots of other students have said that they want this too, when I spoke to them. I'm so grateful that Miss Daly has listened to the students' voices as well as my own. I am proud to be representing the school.



ANNABELLE WHITE: HEADGIRL

HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR INITIAL SPEECH?

To prepare for my initial speech for Head Girl I thought about what I would like to improve about the school to enhance it even more. For example, creating a modern learning environment for children, particularly encouraging children to read.

I also thought about what attributes a Head Girl should have, for example, organisation and consideration about others' feelings and ideas. I think that the main quality of being a Head Girl is listening to others' thoughts and opinions and to pass those on to Miss Daly. Together we can make the school even better.

WHAT IS YOUR MAIN GOAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE AS HEAD GIRL/BOY?

I have a passion for reading and I want to make sure that all the children that attend the school feel the same way. I want to make sure our school has a variety of books to read in the school, ensure children are aware of what the books are like so they can find books they will enjoy, have easy access to those books and a fun space in which to read. I aim to lead the way for others and encourage others to read. I particularly want to help younger children in this area.

My hobbies are mainly sports including gymnastics, cricket, running and football but I also enjoy reading and doing number puzzles such as Sudoku.



ALEX DAVIES: DEPUTY HEADBOY

HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR INITIAL SPEECH?

I thought long and hard about all my time at St Albans, and thought about how I could voice my changes and help other children in the different year groups, and then wrote it down.

I also sat with my sister who's in year 4, and asked her what she would want from our Deputy Heads.

WHAT IS YOUR MAIN GOAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE AS HEAD GIRL/BOY?

My main goal is to help other children in St Albans, and to be able to voice their concerns to Miss Daly and the other teachers. I know this isn't easy for some of the younger children, so I want to be able to help them.



This year, our house captains and heads of school have been showing their leadership skills by engaging with the school community during house lunches every Friday. The children sit with other children from their houses and the house captains and head boys and girls sit on house tables and get to know the children in their houses. This has been really successful so far.

Lindisfarne

Glastonbury

Westminster

Canterbury

All of our pupil leaders have been fantastic role models and have generated topics to speak to the school community about each week. Examples of these topics have included:

What's most important to you at school; clubs and activities that you enjoy; favourite subjects and lessons and languages spoken in our student body. Each half-term, the pupil leaders will meet with the staff management team to talk about ways to enhance school life.

At our most recent meeting, it was highlighted that chicken wraps are a popular choice for the lunch menu. Look out for these in the Spring Term!

We were very proud of our house captains when they hosted the first 'house assembly' of the term. This was an opportunity for the houses to come together, find out about what to look forward to for the rest of the year and celebrate any successes. Look out for our first competition launching on Google Classroom soon!

As part of our ongoing work on building a fully inclusive community, we carefully consider what the real experience of attending St Alban's is like for our children and value the feedback that we receive from the school community. The experience of belonging to our school community is central to our ethos and essential to our success. As a Catholic school, teaching children about the importance of equality, the celebration of diversity and becoming responsible citizens is of vital importance.



We build our children's understanding of equality and British values through assemblies; curriculum focus and Personal Health and Social Education (PSHE) lessons. We as a school are fully committed to ensuring that we do all we can to further educate all of our children.

As a school, we are reinforcing the message that if something is concerning or upsetting, children are encouraged to speak immediately to a trusted adult at school so we can provide support and help resolve the issue. In the new year, we are also going to be continuing to work with the charity 'Show Racism the Red Card' and participate in workshops.

Moving forward, if any parent is willing to offer some time to join a working-group on equality and diversity it would be very much appreciated. We will be sending details of how to do this in the new year.



STAFF UPDATES

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our new admin staff who have settled incredibly well in the new role, especially starting at the busiest time of the school year.

It brings me great joy to announce that St Alban's School will be fully staffed from January 2025, as we warmly welcome the latest additions to our delightful Breakfast and Afterschool club.

farewell

We said goodbye to Miss Batten who worked at the Breakfast and Afterschool club for more than 3 years. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

Welcome Back

We are very pleased to welcome Miss Martin back in January who is beginning her teaching career at St Alban's School.



Miss Ryan and Mrs Griffiths - 5 years of service



Mrs Bronwlie and Miss Cribbin - 10 years of service

We are so proud to have them of our team and offer our congratulations on this service milestone.



POSITIVE PLAY

Why is it important to promote a positive and active playground?

Playing games activates a child's brain. In particular, the mammalian, (the lower brain) contains a "seeking" system. When seeking is activated in mammals, it encourages them to explore and investigate their environment with curiosity and motivation.

In humans, the seeking system can activate an appetite for life, provides energy to explore the new and an eagerness to seek out whatever the world has to offer. According to Margot Sunderland, when the seeking system is working in a well-coordinated way with the frontal lobes/upper brain, the motivation chemical, dopamine, gets released, enabling us to sustain motivation and a sense of purpose to help us attain our goals.

The seeking system must be activated by stimulation for infants and toddlers; if not, low levels of arousal will follow your child into adulthood, resulting in low levels of energy, drive, and a sense of "is that all there is?". The same system that enables a child to build and create dens and sandcastles is the one that enables adults to turn a dream into a successful business accomplishment.

This seeking system in our brain is like a muscle: The more you use it, the more curious and creative you become. Providing a child with an enriched learning and play environment will help them to develop in numerous ways, including increased self-confidence, increased stress adaptation, improved social skills, more brain cells in the memory and learning regions.

Raising the activity level in the playground is much more likely to improve the health of children.

1

The school playground may provide the only opportunity out of curriculum time for some children to be physically active, so break times and lunch times play are a crucial role in their health and well being.

In order to help children achieve this recommended level of activity, positive, active playgrounds should be a priority of all school and should include the development of:

- A** A bright, safe and stimulating environment
- B** Engaging and enjoyable activities

Playing with minimal adult supervision is vital in allowing children to work out their own rules of behaviour.

2

A lack of play areas and the general parental concern of increased traffic and child abduction are major factors in the limiting of free unsupervised play. By developing "Positive Playgrounds" Children will have the opportunity to:-

- A** Develop the skills of social interaction at a range of levels

Play is your child's most natural

FORM OF EXPRESSION



Continued...

Why is it important to promote a positive and active playground?

Positive playgrounds can reduce the incidence of bullying.

3

The national survey of schools has shown that staff in one of four schools believe that behaviour at break times has deteriorated with more difficult behaviour and aggression in evidence. Boredom and lack of purpose and stimulation can often be the root cause of bullying. Providing a variety of opportunities for activity could be a key to alleviating such behavioural problems by:-

- A** Revising traditional games
- B** Preventing one group of children encroaching on the whole playground

Positive playgrounds can provide a safer environment.

4

The level of physical activity can be increased and the number of accidents lowered if the environment is sensibly managed by:-

- A** Providing limited, safe equipment
- B** Zoning in the playground
- C** Providing a "quiet area"

"I like being able to choose activities like crocheting. Doing this in the Library with my friends is very calming and relaxing"

Felicity, Y4

"I have enjoyed playing in the basketball zone- it's really fun. When I want to, I can also draw in the quiet zone- it's good to be able to choose different activities"

Izzy, Y3

"We play chess together- it's really fun"

Oliie and Seb, Y6

"I like the freedom to decide what I want to do. We have lots of options because we don't always want to do the same things each day"

Mia, Y6

"In the wildlife garden, I like watching children creating things specifically for insects- they are caring for other living things, learning and having fun"

Mrs Hooper

"Watching children of all ages choosing activities they maybe don't do everyday, such as dressing up, construction and Swingball is a real highlight for me"

Mrs Ahern



Positive

Play



Governors

Polly Narcisi
Chair of Governors



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our governing body at St Alban's. Governors work with Miss Daly and the Senior Leadership Team to offer strategic guidance rather than getting involved with the day-to-day running of the school.

Fr. Marco Villani
Vice Chair



Gary Luk
Foundation
Governor



Annamarie Milne
Foundation Parent
Governor



Georgia Hopkins
Parent Governor



The majority of our governing body are Foundation Governors who are appointed by the Bishop of our Diocese to uphold and develop the Catholic nature of our school. In addition, we have two parent governors who are elected by other parents.

Amr Alshaer
Parent Governor



We each take on a role and are supported by the Xavier Trust. Being a governor is a voluntary role but working as a team to achieve the best outcomes for our pupils is hugely rewarding. Please do come and talk to us if you would like to find out more about our work.

RECEPTION REVAMP

DECEMBER 2024

We are thrilled to unveil a delightful transformation set to unfold during the Christmas holidays! Our Reception area will receive a refreshing makeover, and we eagerly anticipate showcasing the children's enchanting artwork. These splendid creations will beautifully embody the theme of Growth!

A heartfelt thank you to one of our parent volunteers, Mrs. Inskip, who has generously devoted her time and skill to crafting this modern and inviting design for our school.

We eagerly anticipate your thoughts as the New Year dawns!

A sneak peak...



welcoming



Year 6 started off with their class fundraisers where each class raises money to go back into the classes this has seen some great ideas on different things that can be sold from cakes and donuts to sweets.



We have also given the children an open space library through fundraising and the children are loving the space.

FOSA has been very busy this term with all the fundraising.

When looking to the future and our plans working closely with the school in what we can achieve we are in great hopes that we can turn the old afterschool room into a nurture room for all children to enjoy.

Lastly a huge thanks to all our volunteers without them we wouldn't be able to do the events we do so thank you.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who graced our Winter Wonderland with their presence! Our raffle sparkled with success, and this year's prizes were truly extraordinary.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the marvellous businesses that generously contributed prizes to our raffle; your kindness means the world to us!

Congratulations to all the lucky individuals who have won a prize; may your happiness be endless!



2 main meals and a bottle of house wine for The Poyntz Arms on Walton Road

A £15 voucher for Mada Deli on Bridge Road

Gifts worth over £60 from @iambrickuk which include a O.G Original Gold Art Brick and a Follow the Yellow Brick Road mug

As we look towards the end of term we have had our annual fireworks display which was greatly attended and such a huge success in raising funds for the school.

We held our quiz night and was lovely to see so many new faces with the reception parents joining in.

A £20 voucher for Hopscotch Shoe Boutique on the Walton Road

A hamper with wine and chocolates from Polskie Delikatesy Jantar at 57 Feltham High Street





SIGN UP TODAY

**Receive the FOSA
Quarterly Newsletter**

Empowering and growing our committee by engaging with our wider School community

[Read Winter 2024 \[click here\]](#)

[FOMO? Sign up \[click here\]](#)



This Term's Christmas Wish Lists

This term, we are incredibly grateful to FOSA for kindly agreeing to fund class Christmas wish lists. These wish lists provide our class teachers with the opportunity to identify resources and materials that will have a positive and lasting impact on their year groups and classes.

We are excited to share some of the fantastic items that have been purchased this term:

Reception: A wooden construction set to promote collaborative building activities and foster teamwork and creativity.

Year 1: A variety of resources for the Year 1 outdoor area to enrich outdoor learning and exploration, alongside telling the time kits to support the development of this key skill.

Year 2: Peg dolls to inspire interactive play and storytelling, as well as comfortable cushions to create a calm and inviting corner for relaxation and reflection.

Year 3: A globe and maps of the world to enhance their geographical knowledge, alongside indoor wet-break games to keep children engaged on rainy days.

Year 4: A range of high-quality texts to expand and enrich their class library, encouraging a love of reading.

Year 5: A set of 15 bibles for their classroom, supporting their study of scripture and Catholic teachings.

Year 6: A set of canvases for creating artwork that will be displayed in the new school reception area, showcasing their creativity and leaving a lasting legacy.

We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of FOSA in helping to enhance the learning experiences of all our pupils. On behalf of the school, thank you to everyone who contributes to making this possible. These resources will undoubtedly enrich our children's education and bring learning to life in the classroom.

The first term of running P.L.U.S on a weekly basis has been a great success thanks to the generosity of parents donating uniform and visiting the shop.

We have over 800 items on our rails and have made a profit of **£669.20** thus far this term - all of which goes to fund projects that directly benefit the pupils.

If you haven't yet visited the Pre-Loved Uniform Shop, please consider it before purchasing anything new. You're directly benefitting the children, as well as preventing landfill and excess textile manufacturing, and saving yourself some pennies!

Price List

Jumper £9
Cardigan £9
PE Sweatshirt £4
PE Jogging Bottoms £4
PE T-Shirt £2
PE Shorts £2
Cap £2
Woollen Winter Hat £2
Velcro/Elasticated Tie £2
Regular Tie £2
Book Bag £2
Blue shirt "1
Grey Shorts £2
Grey Trousers £2
Grey Skirt £2
Grey Pinafore £2
Yellow Summer Dress £2



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are now looking for a **parent volunteer** to run the shop on an alternative day of the week from the Spring term onwards so that more parents are able to access it. Ideally this would be every other Friday, from 3:15 - 3:35pm.

All you'd need to do is open the door and oversee the sales table, which involves tallying up the items and taking payment. You can leave the shop unattended for a few minutes to fetch your children from their classrooms, and then even have them help with ringing up the sales! If you are interested in getting involved, please email the School office on admin@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk

From **January 2025**
our new weekly sale
day will be a **Thursday**
3.20 - 3.30pm

(1st sale day 9th Jan 25)



- Our Red Tractor certified British beef superburger is fortified with 20% broccoli and spinach... we promise, you can't even taste it!
- Alternatively, pupils can try our freshly made bubble and squeak veggie burger.
- We'll be serving Tilda's brown and white rice blend to enhance essential fibre intake.
- We've added a Chinese chicken curry cooked from scratch, 'Big tasty fish cakes', vegetable rosti, bite-sized tortellini, hand crafted cheese & courgette twist and many more delicious options.
- We've also kept popular dishes such as our pork or vegan sausages with mash and gravy, helping to see pupils through cold winter days.
- Freshly made vegetarian Glamorgan sausages are available on ever popular roast dinner day, plus meat free meatballs, veggie tacos and Quorn nuggets.
- We reduce salt and sugar in recipes where possible and often make our own sauces.
- A selection of our sponge puddings contain 50% fruit, like our new pineapple upside down cake

Not signed-up yet for school meals, which are **FREE** for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils?

Please speak to your school office

Twelve 15 Week 1
Autumn/Winter 2024/25 Menu

Weeks Starting: 26th November, 26th November, 26th December, 20th January, 10th February, 10th March and 21st March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1 Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Sweet Potatoes	Option 1 Pork Sausages with Creamed Potatoes and Gravy	Option 1 Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Option 1 Chicken Chicken Curry with Rice	Option 1 Fish Fingers with Oven Chips
Vegetarian Option 2 Vegetable Meat with Baked Potatoes	Option 2 Chestnut Wild Turkey with Creamed Potatoes and Gravy	Option 2 Cheese Leek Potatoes with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Option 2 Chicken Veg Curry with Rice	Option 2 Mac 'n' Cheese
Option 3 Lamb Potatoes with Cheese or Baked Beans	Option 3 Turkey Wrap	Option 3 Tomato Pasta Pot	Option 3 Cheese Sausages	Option 3 Lamb Potatoes with Cheese or Baked Beans
Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread
Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt

Explore our delightful menus, available until the arrival of Easter. Each page will reveal the specific dates for the weekly offerings at the top.

Twelve 15 Week 2
Autumn/Winter 2024/25 Menu

Weeks Starting: 13th November, 2nd December, 6th January, 27th January, 24th February and 15th March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1 Roast Chicken with Tomato Sauce	Option 1 Superfood Beef Burger with Sweet Potatoes	Option 1 Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Option 1 BBQ Chicken with Rice	Option 1 Harry Ramsden's Fish with Oven Chips
Vegetarian Option 2 Cheese and Cornish Pasty with Potato Potatoes	Option 2 Lamb and Turkey Burger with Baked Potatoes	Option 2 Freshly Made Cornish Sausages with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Option 2 Wheat Free Meatballs and Tomato Sauce with Rice	Option 2 Veg Chicken with Oven Chips
Option 3 Lamb Potatoes with Cheese or Baked Beans	Option 3 Turkey Wrap	Option 3 Tomato Pasta Pot	Option 3 Cheese Sausages	Option 3 Lamb Potatoes with Cheese or Baked Beans
Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread
Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt



Twelve 15 Week 3
Autumn/Winter 2024/25 Menu

Weeks Starting: 18th November, 2nd December, 13th January, 2nd February and 16th March and 21st March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1 Superfood Pasta Bake	Option 1 Papa John's Pizza with Baked Potatoes	Option 1 Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Option 1 Sweet & Sour Chicken Meatballs with Rice	Option 1 "Big Fishy Fish Cake" with Oven Chips
Vegetarian Option 2 Vegetable Fingers with Baked Potatoes	Option 2 Sweetcorn & Pepper Pizza with Baked Potatoes	Option 2 Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Option 2 Wagon Tacos with Rice	Option 2 Chicken Mapples with Oven Chips
Option 3 Lamb Potatoes with Cheese or Baked Beans	Option 3 Turkey Wrap	Option 3 Tomato Pasta Pot	Option 3 Cheese Sausages	Option 3 Lamb Potatoes with Cheese or Baked Beans
Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread	Sides: Seasonal Vegetables, Salad Bar & Fresh Bread
Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt	Dessert: Fruit & Yogurt

Kindly remember to place all meal orders in advance, ensuring that your child's culinary needs are met each day they seek a nourishing school meal.



"Running Club is an opportunity to run with friends and stay healthy. Our club has really grown and new games and ideas have been released. Running club is a series of steps including fun games and helps you to lead onto becoming future Marathon runners. Our club encourages young ones to run and start the day with fresh air in our lungs and our muscles, ready for another busy day at school"

Daisy year 6

"I like running club because I like running and the games are interactive" Daisy Y6

"I like the games" Tabitha Y4

"I like practising endurance relay" Arthur Y5

"Running club makes us fit and prepares us for harder moments in the future" Asil Y4

"I like the fresh air and enjoy running" Annabelle Y6

"I'm not a big fan of running but my friends are there to support me" Noah Y4

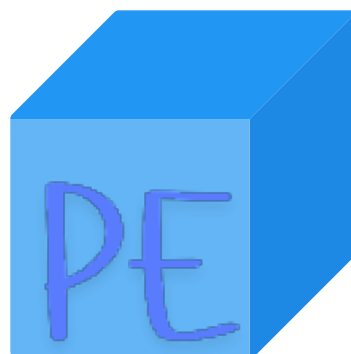
"Running club keeps you fit and healthy because you spend time running instead of being on screens" Imogen Y3

3

The focus in PE for **EYFS** and **Key Stage 1** this term was to start with introducing and developing the fundamentals when it comes to movement.

For EYFS this has been their introduction to PE whilst Key Stage 1 have been able to develop their movement skills on from last school year. From here the children have moved into exploring different skills that when they move into Key Stage 2, these skills will make up organised sports that the children will learn in PE.

For example, this half term Year 1 have focused on Team Building which has allowed the children to learn and explore different ways a team works together to complete a task.



Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 have all been learning about different invasion games this term. Ranging from football, hockey, basketball, netball and tag rugby.

One of my personal highlights from this term is Year 5 hockey. Being a very technical sport has proved challenging for the children who have limited experience playing hockey.

Fortunately, this has given us the opportunity to introduce additional tasks and challenges for the children. Those who have more experience with hockey have been tasked within the lessons to help and coach those who are new to the sport. This has resulted in some fantastic team and leadership work.

In our ball skills lessons for Year 3 and 4 this term we introduced a new sport from the Paralympics to give the children the opportunity to try a sport that they would not have ever tried before. This being Goalball.

With the game being played blindfolded the children must rely on their hearing to locate the ball as it is being rolled towards them to stop the other team scoring in their goal. The introduction of goalball has proved popular with the children and hopefully will be available for other years to give it a try in the next term.

Football

So far this school year, football has been the predominant sport that the children in key stage 2 have participated in and represented the school so fantastically well in. From local school matches to busy all day tournaments, all the children that have taken part have shown incredible skill, attitude and teamwork.



As of right now we have had 65 children represent the school football teams across years 5 and 6 for both the boys and girls A and B teams with the addition of 17 boys and girls from year 4, making a total of 82 children.

For many this has been their first experience of organised football, and they have done themselves proud with how they have performed. I hope that this experience is the start for more children to want to get involved with the sport either competitively and or recreationally.

Football may be coming to an end, but netball, indoor athletics and cross country will be next.



Our major highlights so far have come in the tournaments we have participated in. Our year 4 boys and girls entered a tournament which consisted of 7 schools from the local area.

When all was finished the girls finished a respectable **5th place** with 1 win, 3 draws and 2 defeats.

Our boys finished in an amazing **3rd place** with 3 wins, 1 draw and 2 defeats. Finishing just 1 point behind second place.

Finally, the most recent tournament was hosted by the Chelsea Foundation which saw schools from across Surrey come to compete. Both our boys' and girls' teams reached the later stages of their respected tournaments. Our girls journey ended with a penalty shoot-out loss in the quarter finals after a magnificent group stage of 3 wins and 2 draws. Our boys managed to make it all the way to the semi-finals but was on the wrong side of a narrow 1-0 defeat. Overall, a record of 3 wins and 2 defeats in the group stage and a 2-1 win in the quarter finals.





Lunchtime Singing Club

I have had the pleasure of leading a lunchtime singing club on Tuesdays, for the last few weeks of term. It has been great fun, singing action songs and rhymes with the Reception classes, including some old favourites like 'Old MacDonald' and 'I am the music man', as well as some new favourites like 'O wasn't it a bit of luck that I was born a baby duck!'

With KS1 and 2 we have been singing some more seasonal songs, starting with 'Conkers', and finishing with 'The snowman song' and 'Where's Rudolph?'

As well as being a fun lunchtime activity (in the warm and dry!), singing is good for you - mentally and physically! Singing out loud releases feel-good hormones called endorphins that make you feel happy and positive. It is also an aerobic activity. It forces us to breathe deeply, which draws more oxygen into our bodies. This then travels all around our bloodstreams and even oxygenates our brains.

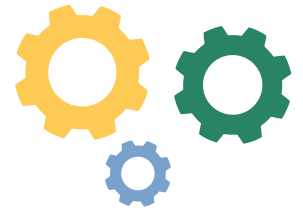
I can't wait for the Singing Club to start again in January, and for even more students to come along!

Christina Pavia

"We love doing singing club because we get to learn new songs"

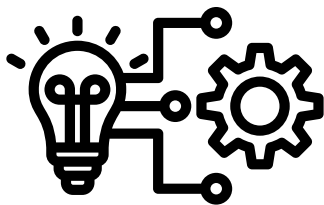
"It's nice and cozy singing in the library and lots of children and come and try it out"

Things that go round



Some of our year 5 children embarked on an exciting 8-week creative engineering project, where they were set a challenge to invent, create and assemble 3 motorised models based on the theme, Things that go round.

Mr Campetti, of Engineers R Us, worked with the children to offer his support and guidance throughout the various stages of their project. From helping them generate ideas of what their models might look like, how best to use the materials and identifying team roles, all of which made the children appreciate the plan, design and build cycle of an engineering project.



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The hands-on building aspect of the project is what really excited the children. This is where their ideas, vision and planning come to life. They experienced first-hand, how sometimes the best laid plans can change once problems start to emerge during the building phase. The children's resilience, team work and being receptive to new ideas meant that no challenge was to overwhelming and a brilliant solution was always to hand.

The children didn't stop once they completed their models, they constantly challenged and questioned each other on its appearance, shape or workings to find ways to make it even better, fun and easy to use for all the school to see and enjoy.

Rosary sessions

During October, we celebrated the month of Mary by inviting parents and children to rosary sessions. The children looked at the mysteries of the rosary and reflected on the story of the Annunciation.

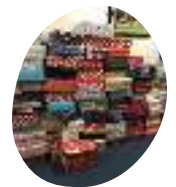
Operation Christmas Child

During November, the RE council supported the school in promoting and organising the Samaritan's Purse Operation shoebox appeal. We successfully received just under 100 boxes!

Cerys "I enjoyed watching the children help people in need through making their shoeboxes."

Maryam "I enjoyed gathering all the shoeboxes. There were so many shoeboxes, we had to organise them into lots of piles across the KS2 corridor".

Harvest



As a council, we decided to make everyone feel happy by creating new positive play zones to celebrate the Harvest festival.

Asil "My favourite positive play zone was when Y5 make a new splat game using fruit and vegetables used at Harvest" Y4's positive play allowed children to draw and colour things linked to Harvest."

Mia "I enjoyed the pebble activity where I got to paint items we would celebrate at Harvest."

Advent Calendar

"For Advent, the RE Council created a special Advent calendar, giving classrooms a fun activity to spread the word for Advent. On each day, the message helps the classes connect to God through the special messages in the calendar." – prepared by Esther, Ruby, Rosie

Luci "For the calendar, I chose the classes to listen and learn new Christmas Carols."

Imogen "For the calendar, I chose to read a special story from the Bible".

Advent

Day 1 - Advent is about waiting in hope for the coming of the Messiah. In the Bible, find Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.

Day 2 - Jesus is a person who went out to help others. Can you look for someone who is alone and invite them to play?

Day 3 - Listen to this Advent hymn - O Little Town of Bethlehem

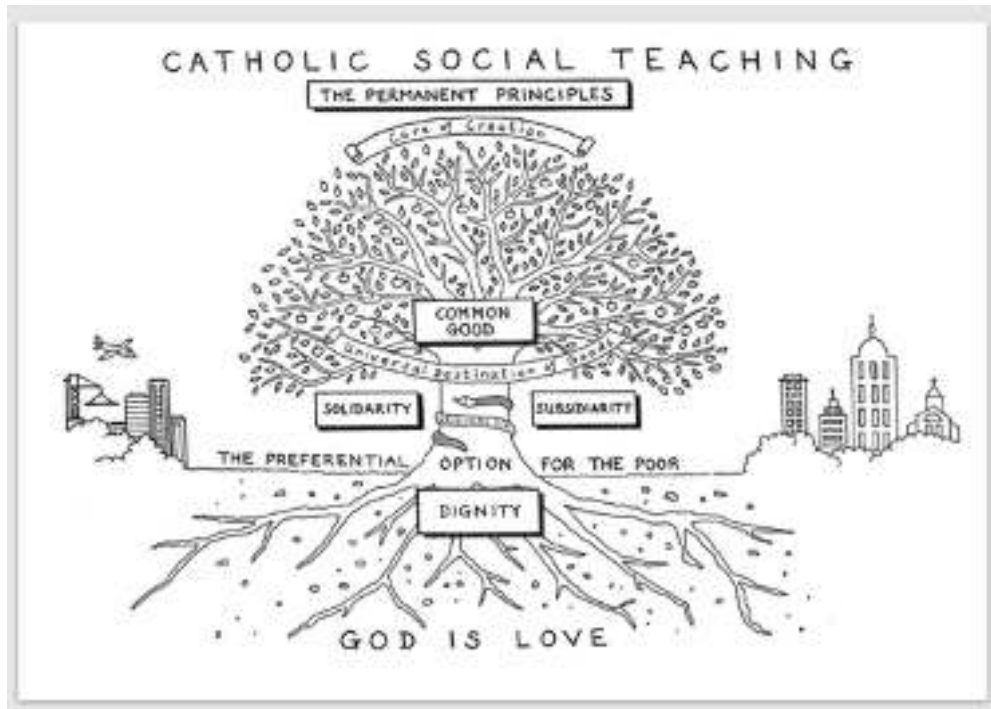
Day 4 - Help us to be the best person we can be to those around us, while also thinking of our global brothers and sisters, as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Let us say the Our Father together.

Day 5 - Help us to be the best people that we can be as we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus. - Positive Play - At lunch time, come to the KS1 playground to act out the story of the Nativity

Headteacher's Reflection

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a conference organised by the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton. The focus of this gathering was Catholic Social Teaching and its profound connection to social justice.

It was an opportunity to pause and reflect on the deep responsibility we hold, as a Catholic school, to not only educate but also to instil values that embody the Gospel message of love, service, and justice.



One of the most powerful moments from the conference was the introduction of a poignant image by Janet Friel, depicting the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching interconnected in a beautiful and thought-provoking way.

These principles—Dignity of the Human Person, Call to Community and Participation, Rights and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers, Solidarity, and Care for God's Creation—remind us of the holistic approach we must take in building a just and compassionate world.

As a school community, we are called to live out these principles daily.

Our mission extends beyond academic excellence; it is rooted in fostering a community where dignity is upheld, the common good is cherished, and care for our common home is prioritised. This image serves as a timely reminder that social justice is not a singular act but a collective commitment to love and serve as Christ taught us.

God is love, and it is through this love that we are guided to treat others with kindness and respect, to advocate for justice, and to care for the world around us. I hope this reflection inspires us all to continue working together as a community, committed to living out these values in everything we do.



This moment shone brightly as a highlight of the term. All the children deeply engaged with the essence of Remembrance Day and the significance of our 2 minutes of silence at 11am.

During our assembly, we reflected on honouring the contributions and sacrifices of British and Commonwealth servicemen and women throughout the World Wars and all global conflicts that have followed.



R emembrance assembly

"I liked the creativity of the poppies and showing gratitude towards those who fought" Serephine Y6

" I enjoyed participating and showcasing the poppies and would really like it to happen again" Eloise Y4

" I like to see all the efforts the children made to make all the poppies" Gracie Y3

" I think that all the people that died in the wars should be appreciated and never forgotten" Imogen Y3

"I liked the Assemble because we get to celebrate all the people who fought for our freedom" Abbey-Rose Y3

"I really enjoyed it, it showed how much people appreciate the people who fought in the war" Sol Y6

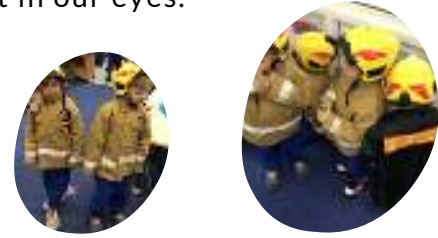
The children have settled into school life well and are already showing their excitement for learning.

We have been very busy practicing and learning new skills, exploring our environment and getting used to the different routines.

Throughout this term the children have participated in so many wonderful things that there are just too many to put onto paper. So here is a few that really stick out in our eyes.

The Esher Fire Service

The children were brilliant at exploring the work that firefighters do and being very respectful with the resources they have sent us. We spoke about the emergency services, how to contact them and role played what to say on the phone if we need help. The children used their number recognition to practise dialling on toy phones, discussing why firefighters need protective clothing and using small world resources to build fires, and then save the day with fire engines.



Planting

As part of our RE topic, the children learnt all about creation and how God created the Earth for us to enjoy as part of one big family. We talked about how we can care for our world, others and live as Jesus would want us to. The children planted either peas or cress seeds and discussed how this will help the world and what these plants will need to grow.

Remembrance Day Poem

The children engaged wonderfully with our learning on remembrance day and took great care when making their poppies. Throughout the week, we also learnt a Remembrance Poem and performed it in the Wildlife garden in our focus groups. In class, we discussed and shared our thoughts and feelings about why we celebrate and remember those who gave their lives for us and the children shared very thoughtful ideas with each other and with adults about being brave and helping to win the war.



Dance

We are very lucky to have a dance session with Miss Allen on a Thursday afternoon. This really helps the children with their coordination, listening, gross motor skills and attention all while having the best time. It is lovely to hear that the children love going to these sessions, having fun but also exercising and learning in a different way.



Cooking

After reading "The Gingerbread Man", the children were very excited and had already talked about how yummy they are so we decided to bake some of our own. The children helped make a list of the ingredients we might need, the equipment and as a class we had a great discussion about why we couldn't use certain ingredients because it could make our friends poorly due to allergies. The team work and communication that was seen when making the Gingerbread was truly something to cherish and that is something that we strive for here at St Albans.





Here is what the children in Year 1 had to say about Learning this term

“ Making a big museum and we drew some toys and we also brought some in from home”

“ I liked to draw all the toys”

“ I like the detail of the toys”

“I liked painting in groups”

“ I liked the dolls and fairies”

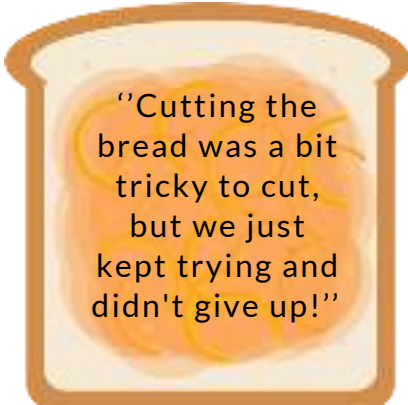
“ It links to the books we are reading so we can link it together”

“ I prefer the old fashioned toys because I like the materials it is made out of and the different styles”

I also liked seeing the person from the museum who was showing us the old toys, it was interesting”



Marmalade sandwiches with Paddington



The spirited children of Year 2 wholeheartedly embraced the delightful adventure of crafting marmalade sandwiches this term...

The best part was the picnic, when we ate the marmalade sandwiches

Here's what they had to share about their enchanting experience!

I liked the step by step instructions because it made it easier to follow how to do it



"We learnt that Paddington likes marmalade and I tried it for the first time"
This taught them to try new things!

"We loved spreading the butter and marmalade and its a bit sticky"

"I loved being able to this activity independantly"





Chiltern Museum

To learn more about their interesting topic of 'The Stone Age' all year 3 pupils attended a trip to a museum of which they really enjoyed.

"I enjoyed making the fire, we were being safe but it was so fun. We threw our pears at a picture on the wall of a bear, pretending to be in the stone age" Anais

"I also enjoyed making spears, we picked out our sharp stones and made the rest out of natural resources, I LOVED it!" Abby-Rose



"I really enjoyed making the spears at the museum, we learnt how to make a fire just like the people in the stone age" Livvie



"We made a home out of animal fur" Gracie



" We learnt how to cook a vegetable, surviving in the forest and we also learnt how to draw with charcoal" Skye, Lexi and Isla





Paige Y4 - "It's really fun because you get to play with Lego as some don't get the opportunity to play with them"

Connie Y4 - "It's good because you can learn to build stuff and interact"

Lola Y4 - "It's fun because you get along with other people you don't normally get along with"

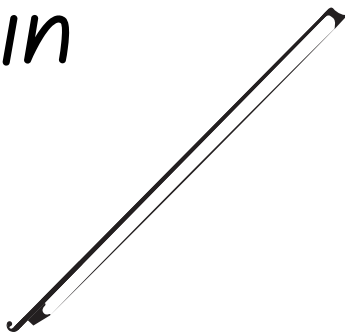
In our robotics workshops, students will design, build and modify LEGO models enhanced with motors and sensors, which they will program to complete challenges. Our hands-on workshops are designed to enable students to discover Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through problem-solving activities. The challenges set are designed to be solved in small groups and we promote collaboration and teamwork.



"Beyond Blocks is a great opportunity to have as it helps you in many ways: Interact with others, inspire you to become an engineer, build using Lego and many more items."

Violin

“My favourite part was learning how to use the bow!” - Carl



“I enjoyed learning the letters of the strings and experimenting with the different sounds that they make” - Michael

Year 5 have really enjoyed learning to play the violin this term.

We were so lucky to have Mrs Pavia from Surrey Arts come to teach the children each Tuesday culminating in a wonderful concert which was so well rehearsed, we wondered if we had been transported to the Royal Albert Hall!

Here are some quotes from the children about their time learning the violin

“I really enjoyed learning to play the violin along with the song ‘count on me’, that was really fun!” - Esther



“I learnt how to hold the bow properly and make sure that no-one got hit in the eye when playing together as a group!” - Lidia



Ancient Greeks

Year 6 have been learning all about the Ancient Greeks this half-term and have taken part in some memorable activities.

Chertsey Museum lent us a box full of Ancient Greek treasures to explore. We had a virtual visit to the British Museum during which we designed and dedicated our own Greek temple to a Greek god of our choosing.



Year 6 created a **paper chain** which was longer than the entire perimeter of the field.

They displayed great teamwork in completing this mammoth, independent project.

Unfortunately, it wasn't eligible for a Guinness World Record as the longest paper chain ever made by a team is 87.44 Km so we had a way to go before we reached this milestone!



Wintershall 2024

Year 6 had a fantastic day at Wintershall. It was a nativity like no other as we stood with shepherds, walked with Mary and Joseph and were marched along by Roman soldiers barking orders.

The immersive experience helped us to understand how Mary and Joseph must have felt, especially when they were told to journey 90 miles to Bethlehem (we barely made it up the hill!).



Please remember...

If your child is late for school you **MUST** accompany them to the school office to sign them in.

If your child is unwell and needs to be kept at home, you must call the school to inform us each day they are absent by 9am. This is part of our safeguarding process and helps keeps our children safe. If we have not heard from a parent or carer regarding a child's absence we will follow our 'first day calling procedures', a copy of which can be found in the school office.

The Children's Commissioner for England has put together a document outlining why attending school regularly is so important for children and parents' responsibilities.

If children are taken out of school without authority for **5 or more days** (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of **£160.00, per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be **reduced to £80.00** if paid **within 21 days of receipt of the notice**. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

2. If you have incurred a **penalty notice** relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the **rolling 3 year period will be activated** from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the **flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

3. If you have **incurred 2 penalty notices** relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will **NOT** receive a third penalty notice - Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Penalty notice fines for school attendance

Absence Category	0 - 21 Days	22 -28 Days	More than 28 Days
First Absence since 19 August 2024	£80	£160	Prosecution
Second Absence (within 3 years of first Penalty Issue date)	£160	£160	Prosecution
Third Absence (within 3 years of first Penalty Issue date)	N/A	N/A	Prosecution

Safeguarding

Who to talk to...



ST. ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEAD THE WAY



Mrs L Atkinson
Lead DSL &
Assistant Head



Miss E Daly
Headteacher



Mrs A Mettrick
Assistant Head



Miss K Cribbin
Teaching Assistant
& ELSA

St Alban's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and to promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect that all staff and visitors share this commitment. We strive at St Alban's to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued in line with our **school mission statement**.

We will grow
in faith
together as a
school family

We will follow
the examples
of Jesus

We will work
hard to be
the best that
we can be

We will lead
the way for
others both
near and far

We expect visitors and staff to be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and to follow procedures in school to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. A copy of the school's safeguarding policy is available on the school website and in the school office.

Address: Beauchamp Road, East Molesey, KT8 2PG Tel: 020 8979 5893

Email: admin@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk or dsl@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk

Spring Term Dates 2025

Term starts - 6th January

Half Term - Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2025

Term Ends - Friday 4th April 2025

School Closed - Friday 14th March 2025 (INSET DAY)

Spring Term PE Days

EYFS - Tuesday and Friday

Y1 - Monday and Thursday

Y2 - Wednesday and Friday

Y3 - Tuesday and Thursday

Y4 - Wednesday and Friday (Swimming, St Josephine 1st half term, St Clare 2nd half term)

Y5 - Monday and Thursday

Y6 - Monday and Tuesday



6th Jan - Term starts

10th Jan - St Josephine Swimming

17th Jan - Y4 St Clare Fundraiser

Please kindly note that all extra curricular clubs will start from w/c 13th January

We extend our heartfelt wishes to all our families for a truly Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year.

May your celebrations be filled with warmth and laughter among friends and loved ones, and we eagerly await our reunion in the magical year of 2025!

