

# School Newsletter

## September 2021



**ST. ALBAN'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
LEAD THE WAY

### Welcome to the new academic year!

I hope you had a good break over the summer. You'll be delighted to hear that the children have settled back into school life really quickly. I have been utterly impressed with all the amazing learning I've seen over the past few weeks. Everyone has made a fantastic start to the new school year. Well done!

The reception children have also made a wonderful start and I would like to welcome all our new families to the school.

I know together we can make this another successful year.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mr Brannigan**

### The school library

Over the summer holidays our school library had a refresh, with the purchase of a wide range of the latest non-fiction books. We are also extremely grateful to parents who have donated books - our fiction section is looking fantastic after some very generous gifts. If you have good condition children's books that your child has outgrown, please do consider donating them to the school - we will very happily find them homes in either class reading corners or the main library.





## September highlights

### Reception year

Reception have settled into school life beautifully. They have been making lots of new friends and enjoying a range of activities, including number hunts, talking about ourselves and learning lots of new sounds. They have really enjoyed exploring and using our outdoor learning environment and are learning to share, take turns and listen carefully to others.

Well done Reception!







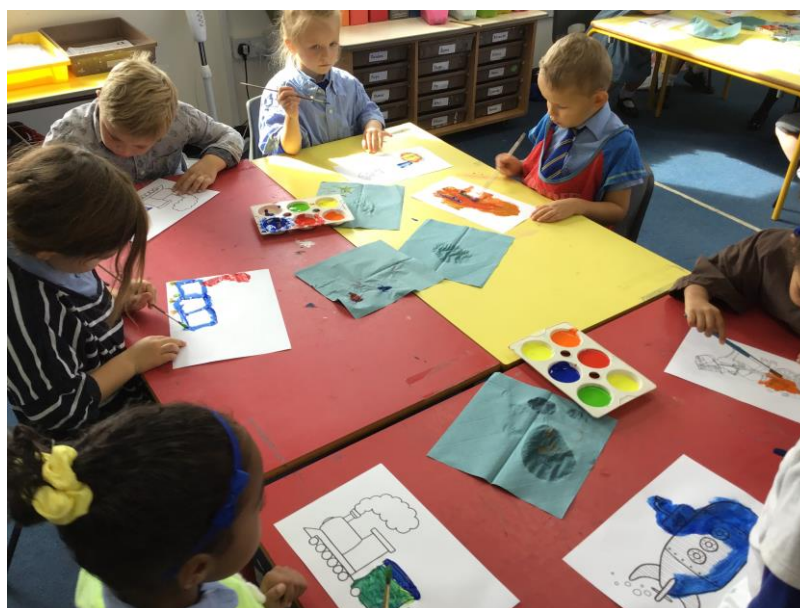
## Year 1

Year 1 have settled in beautifully to Key Stage One and we are proud of all they have achieved so far.

This half term Year 1 have enjoyed participating in our whole school Art Day and learning about local painter Terence Cuneo.

We were visited by Chertsey Museum for a workshop about Victorian Toys as we are learning about Toys from the past in History.

As we are learning about The Seasons in Science, we went on an Autumn walk to spot signs of Autumn and drew a picture of the school Sycamore tree which we will observe throughout the year for seasonal changes.







## Year 2

Year two have made a great start to their "Living things and their habitats" topic, by exploring the wildlife garden and identifying familiar plants. We have been working on the scientific skills of identification, classification and recording results. We will be going on to look at how the different living things within the garden are interdependent, and why the garden is a suitable habitat for the plants and animals that live there.







## Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the term. All of the children have settled in well and are loving being back at school with their peers. It has been a busy start to the term with lots of learning involved.

This term, Year 3 have really enjoyed our Stone Age topic in History. Earlier this month, the children went on a trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum. During the trip, the children became archaeologists, digging through time and recreating historical evidence. The children enjoyed working out where the artefacts came from in history and what they were used for.

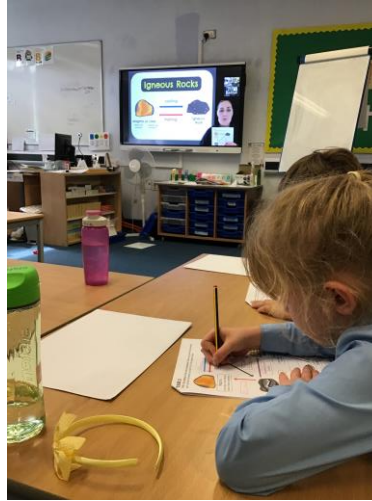
Then, we travelled back in time to the Mesolithic part of the Stone Age and were greeted by Ginny, who was dressed in Stone Age clothing. She took us through the Stone Age and taught our young historians how to create fire with flint and cotton wool, built shelters using wood and animal skin and put their artistic skills to the test where the children created Stone Age Cave paintings using charcoal and vegetarian animal fat. The children came away with lots of sticky learning and eager historians! They have really begun to understand how life changed during the Stone Age and how people used to live in their time.







In Science the children have been investigating rocks, how they were made and the properties of each of the types. Last week, we had a Geobus workshop that was run by UCL and we discovered the three different types of rock and the rock cycle! The children learnt about different types of rocks we see in everyday lives and how they are used. We even got to use 3D glasses to compare rocks and their properties. The children really enjoyed learning about the rock cycle and we look forward to continuing with our learning about rocks!



In Music, the children have begun to learn all about Handel and his famous Oratorio called The Messiah. The children have begun to learn about our key composer and the types of music he composed. The children are learning to create call and response phrases in groups.



In Computing, the children are learning about the importance of being safe online. In Year 3, we considered what is a strong password, how it keeps us safe and the types of confidential information they need to keep private.







## Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed getting to know the character Edward Tulane, the main character from our focus text 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane' and have been busy making predictions about what his 'miraculous journey' might entail. Since the beginning of term, we have also written a letter from the perspective of Abilene, Edward's owner, as well as a character description of his alias, Susanna. The children have come up with some insightful inferences and have demonstrated their excellent vocabulary in spoken and written English so far, as well as performing their own 'Reader's Theatre' production of Chapter 5 on 21st September.

We have also used glockenspiels to perform a piece of music as part of our Roman topic on 16th September. The children learned what musical motifs are and how to identify them, before incorporating motifs into the 'Road Building Song'.





When we returned to school in September, we were delighted to see some beautiful sunflowers that had sprung up since we had left. Back in the months leading up to the summer holidays, our green-fingered children had prepared a planting area, sowed some sunflower seeds and regularly watered them to ensure that the plants remained healthy. The children were excited to see the fruits of their labours and to see all of their hard work pay off.

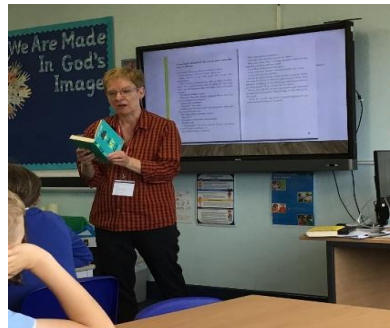






## Year 5

This month we have been fortunate to have a local author, Cath Howe, working in class with us on poetry. We have been using her novel 'Not my Fault' in class to support our English lessons.



We had a fantastic Art Day earlier in the month, focusing on a local artist, Terence Cuneo. We used his rail art as inspiration to create our own abstract art. Take a look at some of our wonderful pieces below.



Year 5 are learning cricket this half term and we have a wonderful coach to teach us. Our teachers are also joining in and we are all really enjoying the sessions!

Miss Laidlaw, a music teacher from Salesians has begun to teach us all how to play the ukulele in our music lessons. Some of us are finding it quite challenging but we are putting our growth mindset lessons into practice and persevering.







## Year 6

Year 6 have really enjoyed weekly cricket sessions in PE run by Surrey Cricket Club. The children have enjoyed developing a variety of skills including throwing on target, both under arm and over arm as well as fielding techniques. The children will continue to develop these skills and more over the coming weeks.

Year 6 also enjoyed creating some drama in RE where they explored the story of the Prodigal Son. The children explored the ideas of unconditional love and forgiveness and confidently expressed their own views on the story. They then shared their drama with the rest of the year group.







## Sports update

### 2.6 Miles Challenge!

We are very proud to report that on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, our very own Miss Daly ran the London marathon raising money for FoSA! A fantastic achievement and inspiration for the children.

It is not too late to donate on the goldengiving fundraising page!

<https://www.goldengiving.com/fundraising/missdalysmarathon>

We're also inviting all junior pupils to have a go at running 2.6 miles on the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> October. This involves running at total of 19 laps around our new track! The children have the opportunity to run their laps in stages throughout the week and try out our brand new track.



### Cricket

This half term, Surrey Cricket have come into school and supported teachers with coaching cricket. Through the 'Chance to Shine' charity, the sessions have developed the all-round skills of the children they work with, whilst improving the confidence of school staff to deliver sessions independently with years 3, 5 & 6. Here are some thoughts from some of our Year 6 pupils who have had the opportunity to participate this term:

*"I like Cricket because it's fun and we get to be taught by a professional who plays cricket"*  
Ruth Y6

*"I loved the Cricket tournament because it gave us a challenge against other schools. I've really enjoyed the sessions in school because we can learn important skills."*  
Zain Y6

*"I've enjoyed Cricket because we get to learn the skills in detail and we have a role model."*  
Kiyra Y6



### Football League

The Esher district football league commences this term. The first match for the boys' football team is on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 against Royal Kent (playing at home) and the girls' football team on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October against Thames Ditton (playing away).

### Swimming

Well done to St. Josephine who have had a great start back to swimming this month. Next half term St. Clare Y4 will be swimming on Friday mornings.







## Head Boy & Girl

We are pleased to announce that Tia Bance from St Oscar and Zain Abou Hassan from St Mother Teresa, are our new Head Girl and Head Boy!



The head boy and girl have been selected by the school leadership team based on the applications received. They will be leading the team of prefects to ensure that all roles and responsibilities are undertaken effectively. They will also sit on the school parliament and help with all of the projects which the school parliament takes on. Later in the year they will take a lead on school tours and greeting visitors to our school.

## Year 6 Leadership Team

St Oscar	St Mother Teresa
Head Girl: Tia Bance	Head Boy: Zain Abou Hassan
Deputy Head Boy: Asa Wallingford	Deputy Head Girl: Niamh Reddaway
President of Sports Leaders: Archie Baker	President of RE Council: Adelaide Jones



## School Parliament

<b>Yr 3 St Elizabeth Ann Seton</b>	Blaire Lau	Gabriel Micklethwaite
<b>Y3 St Paul</b>	Luis Campello	Annabel Reis
<b>Y4 St Josephine</b>	Emilia Leahy	Harrison Edwards
<b>Y4 St Clare of Assisi</b>	Dexter Brahim	Elise Narcisi
<b>Y5 St Mary Magdalene</b>	Jensen Harris	Brianna Charamba
<b>Y5 St John the Baptist</b>	Millie Windridge	Charlie Unwin
<b>Y6 St Mother Theresa</b>	Cecilia Keane	Jack Bradley
<b>Y6 St Oscar</b>	Filip Malczewski	Felix King

Key aims and objectives for the year:

- Our School Curriculum
- Our School Environment
- Community and Fundraising
- Health, Sport and Recreation
- Mental health and well-being

The School Parliament is made of a selection of children from KS2 who are elected to represent the views of all pupils and to improve the school.

A key part of their role of the school parliament is to support pupils to understand that their opinion is of value, that their voices should be heard, and that their suggestions have merit. They help them to learn how to communicate effectively and show them how to develop skills that will remain with them throughout their lives.

Everyone at St Alban's is passionate about pupil voice and recognises the importance of an effective school parliament which represents the views of all children and supports school improvement and development.

The school parliament works as a team and meets regularly to discuss the key objectives and progress made towards these.





## Green Team

We are pleased to announce our Green Team:

The team that will be leading the way to our Eco Award are:

<b>Y1 St Thomas</b>	Joseph Buttaci	Felicity Varley Aziz
<b>Y1 St George</b>	Sasha Brahim	Jonathan Paterson
<b>Y2 St Peter</b>	Emilia Way-Jones	Kuba Stasik
<b>Y2 St Joseph</b>	Ada Meyers	Caleb Jones
<b>Y3 St Elizabeth Ann Seton</b>	Alex Di Palma	Seraphine O'Leary
<b>Y3 St Paul</b>	Annabelle White	Lulu Barker
<b>Y4 St Josephine</b>	Ronnie Down	Layla Holroyd-Preston
<b>Y4 St Clare of Assisi</b>	Noah Crews	Isabella Abou Hassan
<b>Y5 St Mary Magdalene</b>	Dylan Thomas	Milleny Rodriguez Lopez
<b>Y5 St John the Baptist</b>	Bianka Marszalek	Milena Kowalska
<b>Y6 St Mother Theresa</b>	Julia Dudek	Remy Scott
<b>Y6 St Oscar Romero</b>	Olivia Urbaniak	Jayden Kafuti

The responsibilities of the green team will include things like:

- Gardening in our veg plots and planters
- Researching and putting forward new 'green' ideas
- Leading on new green projects as they come up
- Being ambassadors for eco-awareness and setting a good example for others.

This year we will have a member of the Green Team sit on the School Parliament so that ideas can be shared easily across both teams.



## Online safety



St Alban's is a National Online Safety Accredited school.

We would like to invite all parents to sign up to their app or website to access excellent online safety resources including information videos for parents about a wide range of online safety areas.

Please use the following link: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-alban-s-catholic-primary-school-2>

Once you follow the link you will be able to create a free account and get free access to a range of resources





## Key contacts

### A word from the Governors

It has been so good to see all of our pupils returning happily to school this September and we would like to welcome all of our new children, parents and staff. As a Governing body, we continue to work closely with Mr Brannigan and the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that we are providing our children with a secure, happy environment and an outstanding education whilst keeping our Faith at the centre of all we do. We are proud of our school community and in particular of the resilience of our staff and pupils and the amazing support of parents to make the best of what has been another difficult year. It is great to see that the continued development of our curriculum is encouraging our pupils to be independent, enthusiastic and curious learners and we are looking forward to seeing the results of their hard work on our visits to the school. Hopefully, many of you will have had an opportunity to see the playground extension that you have provided through the Governor's School Development Fund. This fund allows our school to plan exciting new projects that benefit our children greatly. If you are not already making a regular contribution and would like to, please contact the school office.

We pray for our health and happiness in the coming months and that our school family at St Alban's will continue to Lead the Way.

**Polly Narcisi Chair of Governors**

### 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 C Martin	Acting Deputy Headteacher
Miss C Clarke	Assistant Headteacher
Miss E Daly	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs A Mettrick	SLT

#### SEN Team

Mrs C Martin	SENCO
Miss S Alston	SEN Consultant

#### Safeguarding Team

Miss C Clarke	Designated DSL Lead
Mrs C Martin	DSL
Mrs A Mettrick	DSL
Mr M Brannigan	DSL



## Information from the school office

### Penalties for absence from school

Please see below a message we have been asked to share from Surrey County Council:

Please can we remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not need to be consecutive), they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

**Please also find attached a letter from Surrey County Council regarding this.**

### Reporting absence

It is very important that all absences are reported to the school office by 8.30am, every day your child is off school. Please inform the school office via phone or email, using the details below:

- Telephone: [020 8979 5893](tel:02089795893)
- Email: [admin@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk)

### Parking and road safety

Since we have returned from the summer, the school office have unfortunately received a number of complaints from our local neighbours regarding parents parking across driveways/parking inconsiderately. There is plenty of space along Beauchamp road and surrounding roads for parking, please can you park safely and avoid blocking driveways. Please also refrain from stopping on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school to drop off and pick up children.

Where possible walking or riding to school is the best option as this not only reduces the traffic/pollution in the area but boosts wellbeing and fitness.

The school is committed to improving the road safety outside the school. Last year the St Alban's Green Team wrote to the local MP Dominic Rabb to request a road safety audit. This letter sparked action and a Road Safety Audit was performed on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September. We are awaiting the outcome of the review and hope to see some positive change which will make the road safer for all users.





## Admissions information

### Secondary school admissions

Year 6 parents/carers please note that the secondary school online admissions system is now open. The deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 but it is recommended to submit your application by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 (*before half term*). Applying on time gives you a better chance of getting one of your preferred schools.

The quickest and easiest way to apply for a school place is online at [surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://surreycc.gov.uk/admissions). Once you have submitted your application you will receive a confirmation email.

You can download ParentComms to your mobile device to receive notifications about your application.

To request a paper application form or other enquiries, you can call 0300 200 1004.

### Reception 2022 admissions

Recently, we have hosted three open mornings for prospective Reception 2022 parents and have a new date in the diary for **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021**. Attendance is optional but if you, or anyone you know, is thinking about applying to St Alban's and would like to view the school, please find the link to register on our webpage: Admissions / Prospective Parents Information. <https://www.stalbans.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=Prospective+Parents+Information&pid=35>

#### It is a two-part application process

**1. Online application** made via Surrey County Council (SCC) admissions [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions), from **1st November 2021**.

**2. The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for 2022-23** (available to download from our website) must be completed and returned to the school, together with any supporting documentation e.g. baptism certificate etc. Please note that all documents relating to the SIF should be given to us at the *same time*.

**We welcome these completed forms with immediate effect.**

Please can we ask that you scan and return your completed paperwork to us at [admin@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk). If this is not possible, you can hand deliver your completed paperwork to the post box outside the school gate (not to the school office). Or you can send it to us through the post.

Once processed, we will confirm receipt of your application.

The deadline for applications (both parts) is STRICTLY **15th January 2022**.

SCC make offers via email/online/letter on **19th April 2022**.

Places must be accepted or declined by **4th May 2022, at the latest**.