

School Newsletter

January & February 2022



ST. ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEAD THE WAY

End of Spring term 1 2022

The children have made a wonderful start to 2022. Thank you for all your kind emails and comments regarding our **OUTSTANDING** Ofsted Grade!

Ofsted commented that, *'Pupils engagement, resilience and desire to learn has enabled leaders to implement an extremely ambitious curriculum in every subject.'* We are very proud of our school and our curriculum and hard work from both staff and children.

We have continued to have a very busy term and the children have had some wonderful workshops and school trips already.

CAFOD have kindly conducted Catholic Social Teaching Workshops for years 1, 2, 5 and 6 and are set up to return for Years 3 and 4 in the summer term. They visited the school and discussed important concepts including human dignity and the common good in society. **We have got the most kind and thoughtful pupils here at St Alban's** and we are looking forward to doing some wonderful fundraising for charities during our Lenten topics.

Have a lovely half term everyone.
God Bless,

Mr Brannigan

School Parliament

On January 21st, the School Parliament were very fortunate to take a virtual tour of the Houses of Parliament. It was so interesting to see all of the different rooms – not just the ones that you would normally see on TV! We were all very impressed with the grandeur of the Queen's rooms and enjoyed finding out about her role. We found out the history of Parliament, dating back hundreds of years and asked a lot of insightful questions:

- "Why did Charles I disagree with how Parliament was run?" (Luis, Y3)
- "Why did the Roundheads and Cavaliers disagree so much that it led to the English Civil War?" (Jenson, Y5)
- "How often does Parliament meet?" (Gabriel, Y3)

We impressed our guides so much with our knowledge and curiosity that Mrs Atkinson received a lovely email, inviting us back to discuss the role Parliament plays in our democracy.





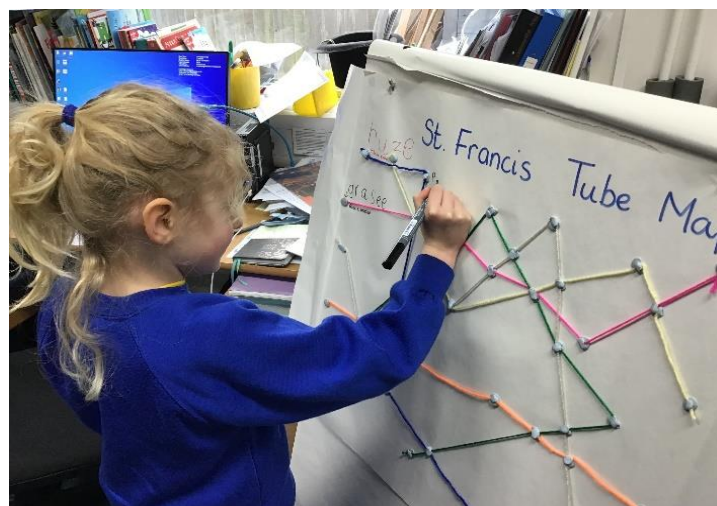
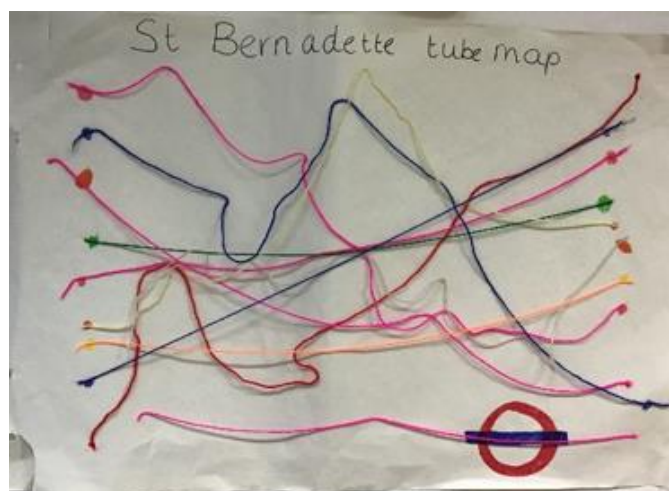
Spring term 1 highlights

Reception year

Reception have had an exciting start to this term. On Wednesday 19th January we visited St Barnabas church and spotted lots of different special objects. We tried to find the altar, the font, the lectern and the stained-glass windows. We drew lots of pictures of them too!



We have also been learning about our world. We have looked at our homes, allotments and London. We enjoyed making our own tube maps, crowns and talking about the different landmarks we know in London. We made crown jewels and stamps for the queen.



Year 1

This half term, Year 1 have enjoyed learning about The Three Little Pigs. We have had class debates about whether the wolf was good or bad in our English Lessons, written our own version of the story, and enjoyed making our own finger puppets for a show. We have also begun to design and make our own strong houses for the pigs in our D&T lessons with the knowledge we have from learning about materials in our science lessons.

We enjoyed a visit from the Chertsey Museum again, this time to learn about houses in the past. We could not believe people did not have toilets inside their houses and adults had to use a potty! We really enjoyed looking at objects found inside homes in the past and trying to guess what they were.

We have continued to explore seasonal change and observed the changes to the Sycamore tree in Winter.

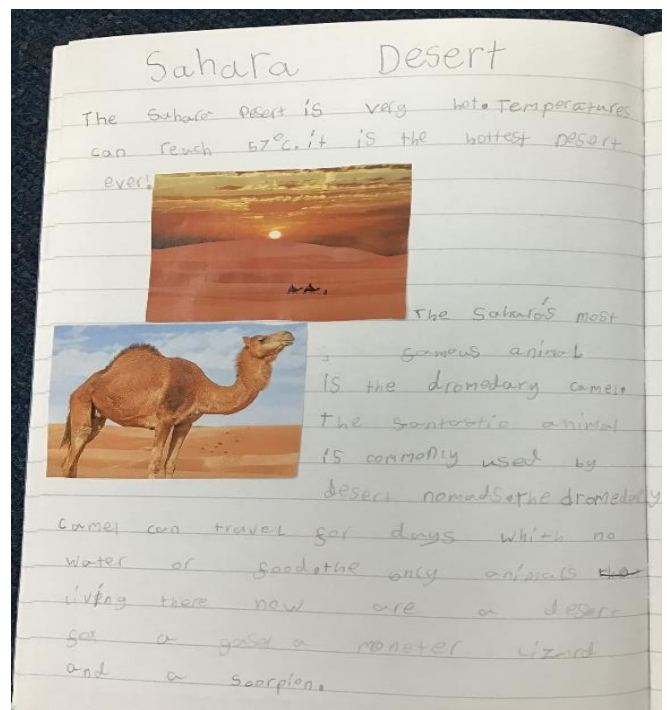
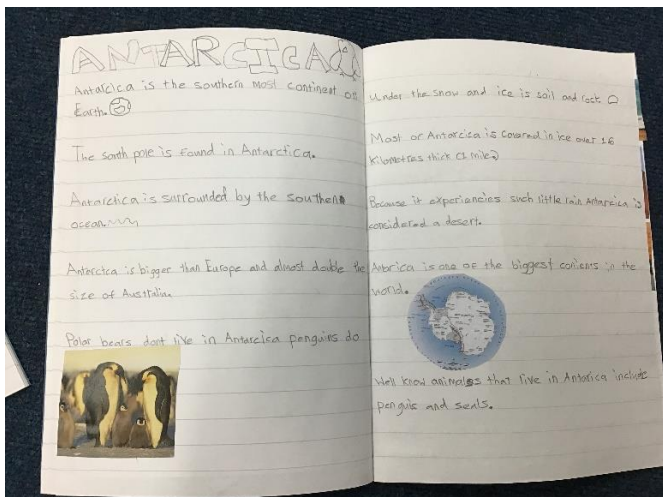


Year 2

This half term we have been busy learning about plants, we have visited the wildlife garden on a seed hunt to see what we could spot and have even had a go at recognising different types of trees and flowers... we're pretty good at that!



In Geography we have been learning about hot and cold climates, we have looked at Antarctica and the Sahara Desert and created our own fact files in our books. We would love to talk at home about the equator and all the interesting facts that we know!





Year 3

Cinderella Trip

At the beginning of term, the children were very fortunate to travel to the Polka theatre in Wimbledon to see the amazing story of Cinderella. This story came with twists and turns, learning about how to look after friends and family. The children were amazed at all the actions and movement and certainly loved joining in the audience participation!



Bronze and Iron Age

This term has been exploring the next stage of Prehistoric Britain. The children have been learning all about life in the Bronze and Iron Age. We have focused on the changes from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. The children researched about the life of Beaker folk and their impact on Prehistoric Britain. The children engaged and enjoyed their learning through our history workshop with Chertsey Museum.



In Art the children have been looking at tools from the Iron Age and how they were made. Recently, the children have created their own Iron Age inspired jewellery using a torc design.





RE

This term the children have really enjoyed looking at the different journeys that people make through the church. We looked at liturgical calendars and months in the year that are special to us. We have also focused on the ordinary time in the church year and the special seasons Christians explore during the liturgical year.



Computing

In computing this half term, the children have been using their knowledge of handling data to represent their data in a variety of ways. They have created number lines and have cracked codes by using cell addresses on spreadsheet.



Music

This term the children have been learning all about the incredible composer James Brown! The children researched about who he was and why he was so important for the Jazz era in America. In class, the children were composing a melodic accompaniment to the music using our glockenspiels. For our singing piece, we have been learning traditional Moroccan music and learning how the tempo (pace) can increase.

Year 4

In English, Year 4 have been studying the Anglo-Saxon epic poem *Beowulf*. We have discussed the characters of Beowulf and Grendel and compared them to other fictional characters that we have encountered in our reading. Over the course of the term, we have studied how authors build tension, use show-not-tell to engage the reader and choose powerful words and phrases to enhance the meaning within a story. At the end of this topic, we have brought together all of this knowledge to create our own hero myths that we would love to share with you – just ask! Here you can see us hard at work.



Over the half term, Year 4 have been busy learning about States of Matter in Science. In class, we have investigated how different-sized pieces of chocolate melts at different speeds, while we have also conducted an experiment for our homework to find out how the heat of an environment can effect how quickly water evaporates.



Year 5

In Year 5, everyone has a chance to be Scientist of the Week. This is a great opportunity for children to showcase an experiment of their own choosing and leads to great discussions in class.



We have been learning about Materials and it has been an incredibly practical unit which we've all enjoyed. Amongst other things, the children have found out about thermal and electrical conductors/insulators, as well as different types of solutions. We have had lots of fun in class!





As part of our RE, we have done some deeper learning into St Alban. We spent time in the wildlife garden creating art work that looked like a portrait of him.



The children have had the opportunity to visit Salesian School to take part in a Music Technology workshop. This was a fantastic experience and we learnt so much. We worked in pairs to create our own music tracks, adding different layers and instruments. At the end of the session, we listened to each other's tracks which was brilliant!





Year 6

Year 6 enjoyed a workshop about the Catholic social teachings. The children learnt about their moral compass and how it guides them on how to live out their faith in the world. At the core of Catholic Social Teaching are a number of key concepts and principles. The children learnt that justice, human dignity, the common good, the principles of participation, solidarity, and subsidiarity, the universal destination of the world's goods, and the option for the poor are very important and enjoyed making a poster to teach others about these important messages.

Year 6 also enjoyed sharing their class prayers with their parents and carers in the wildlife garden. The children planned these sessions themselves and shared thoughtful and insightful opinions on different pieces of scripture. The children also wrote their own prayers and poems and confidently shared these with their class.





Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 8th February, St Alban's joined in on our Safety internet day.

KS2 were invited to a live zoom with many schools in our trust where we thought about what it means to be respectful online. It was so lovely for KS2 to see other schools in the trust and listen to their thoughts about being safe online.

The children thought about what it means to be safe online and life as a digital citizen in our evolving world.

KS1 were learning a story about Digi duck and his adventures of being a digital user. The children learnt about being a digital user and understanding which information should be personal and not shared online.

KS2 learnt about what to do if they see something strange. The children created a digital recipe for a safe relationship online, thinking about what to do in the moment and the impact of influences we see online. It was lovely to speak to the children about their learning and we know they will become safe online users.





National Online Safety – Parent Resources

The online world can pose an ever-increasing risk to children, and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children.

We would like to remind parents and carers that we have shown our commitment to protecting our pupils online by working with National Online Safety – providing resources for all families.

The resources include Parents & Carers courses (presented by Mylene Klass), online video resources and weekly guides covering a huge range of topics.

Please use the following link to sign up for a free parent account. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-alban-s-catholic-primary-school-2>

We hope you find these resources useful.

Miss Clarke
Safeguarding Lead


National Online Safety®

Download your Free Online Safety App for Parents & Carers





Be #OnlineSafetySavvy

Keep up with the latest apps games and tech your children are using, with the worlds most comprehensive online safety app for parents.

On the National Online Safety app you'll find:

- ✓ Hundreds of online safety guides on the topics you need to know about – from screen addiction, fake news and trolling to hacking, social media influencers and sexting;
- ✓ An online safety training course for parents – developed by our experts and delivered by online safety ambassador Mylene Klass;
- ✓ A user-friendly interface with increased functionality – find exactly what you need, when you need it;
- ✓ The option to get notifications to your phone as soon as new content becomes available – so you can stay up-to-date with the latest online crazes (and risks);
- ✓ An in-app voting system so you can help determine the subjects you'd like us to cover in future;
- ✓ The facility to personalise your content by favouriting key resources.

Download the free app today



Scan to download on Apple App Store



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or search 'National Online Safety' in the store




www.nationalonlinesafety.com Call: 0800 368 8061 Email: hello@nationalonlinesafety.com
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Attendance

Why is it important for children not to miss school?

Having a good education is important to ensure that children have the best opportunities in their adult life. The aim should be to attend 100% of the time. If children do not attend school regularly, they may struggle to keep up with school work and will miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age will also help your child later on in their life.

We do understand that there may be reasons that a child needs to stay off school, illness for example, but we do ask that parents support their child to attend school whenever possible.

Days off school add up to lost learning:

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent days	Equivalent sessions	Equivalent weeks
95%	9.5 days	19 sessions	2 weeks
90%	19 days	38 sessions	4 weeks
85%	28.5 days	57 sessions	3 weeks
80%	38 days	72 sessions	8 weeks
75%	47.5 days	95 sessions	10 weeks

It is also important to arrive at school on time. Children must be in their classrooms for morning registration at 8:55am. If a child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time over one academic year.



We would like to thank parents and carers for their ongoing support of the school and ask that if you are experiencing difficulties with punctuality or attendance and would like to talk to us about it, please make an appointment to do so.



Uniform

We would like to remind all our families about our uniform expectations. We expect our children to wear full school uniform and school shoes. Looking and feeling smart, truly does set children up to be ready to learn.

Teachers and senior leaders will be checking that appropriate uniform is being worn in school and will be following up with parents if required.

We would also like to remind parents and carers of a few key uniform regulations:

- Children must only wear a St Alban's school hat – no other hats are allowed
- Children must not wear any jewellery (including earrings) as this can pose a health and safety risk
- Trainers should **only** be worn with PE kit on PE days. On all other days, children should wear school shoes with their uniform

Please encourage children to tuck in their shirts and arrive at school looking smart and ready to start the day.

Parking and road safety

As per the communications sent to all parents, we would like to remind and encourage all parents to park safely and considerately.

From our recent road safety survey, the two key issues highlighted were:

- Inconsiderate parking
- Congestion

These issues are due to the actions of individuals. **You can make a difference** to the safety of our school community by:

- **Always looking for a safe place to park** – Beauchamp road is very long with lots of parking available a short walk from the school gates
- **Never** stop in the middle of the road to let your children out
- **Never** let your children exit the car straight onto the road
- **Never** park on the zig-zag lines
- Drive well within the speed limit and be **extra vigilant** when approaching the school
- If **you live close enough to walk** then please do – walking is a great way to start the day with fantastic health and well-being benefits

Please always bear in mind that by not parking safely the consequences of your action can be life changing.

Please support the school in this very important matter.



Information from the school office

Online half term activities from Surrey Heritage

This half term, join Surrey Heritage and The Lost letters Project in celebrating written letters. We have two activities for families to do at home.

1. Writing through time.

Listen to some old letters written by people in Surrey and write your own.

<https://bit.ly/writingthroughtime>

2. Smile in my pocket

Create a pocket reminder of something that makes you happy.

<https://bit.ly/smileinpocket>

You can either download the activity packs on the links above or pop into the Surrey History Centre, Woking, during normal opening hours to pick up a pack and see the Lost Letters exhibition.

Full links:

Writing through time <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/07a5c63d-ecbd-45a6-b7e7-97454189ef7b/downloads/LL%20Creative%20Challenge%20-%20Writing%20Through%20Time.pdf?ver=1643283740540>

Smile in my pocket <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/07a5c63d-ecbd-45a6-b7e7-97454189ef7b/downloads/LL%20Creative%20Challenge%20-%20Smile%20in%20my%20Pocket.pdf?ver=1643283740540>

Online half term activities from Surrey Heritage

Elmbridge Council are offering a couple of half-term activities. Please see leaflets attached.

Free Shout! Stay and Play Drop-in sessions

Date: Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 February from 10am to 3pm

Venue: Cecil Hepworth Playhouse, Hurst Grove, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1AT

Activities: Fun arts and crafts, games and wide choice of play equipment to keep children of all ages entertained.

Free entry. No booking required. Just turn up!

Elmbridge Museum Explorers – Theme: 'Storytelling through history' – learning + related arts and crafts for 5 to 11 year olds

Date: Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 February – 11am to 12pm and 1p to 2pm.

Venue: Cecil Hepworth Playhouse, Hurst Grove, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1AT

Activities:

- Campfire storytelling before the invention of books
- Explore how people recorded their thoughts in the past
- Learn about famous writers who lived in Elmbridge
- Make your quill, mix your ink and create a manuscript

Booking essential at <https://elmbridgemuseum.org.uk/events/storytelling/>
£5 per child for 1 hour session.



The Cycle Training Team

The Surrey County Cycle Training Team at Surrey County Council are recruiting for Bikeability Cycling Instructors. Please find out more via the following link:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/jobs/search/details?id=20668>

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

For any confidential matters, please email the DSL team at:

dsl@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk