

# School Newsletter

May 2022



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

## End of summer term 1

Dear Parents,

The first part of this summer term has been filled with many, wonderful successes. Just after Easter, we received the result of the RE Inspection and I'm delighted to announce that we received another outstanding grade. Well done to all the children, staff, governors and parents. This builds on the outstanding that OFSTED awarded St. Alban's in the autumn term. St. Alban's also triumphed in the sporting arena. The Year 5/6 Football team beat Claygate Primary 5-2 in the final of the Esher District League and won the competition!

Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 took part in the Primary Music Festival, at Dorking Halls. This was a wonderful event and many of the local schools sang a wide range of songs, from all over the globe. The main theme was 'My Planet' and all the children sang beautifully and with real passion. There was also a lot of audience participation!

Continuing with the music theme two of our children Joseph (Y6) and Blaire (Y3) represented St. Alban's at the inaugural 'Xavier Primary Musician of the Year' competition and I'm delighted to announce that Joseph (Y6) won the competition which was of a very high standard. Well done to both children who represented the school. In fact, I would like to thank all the children for always singing so passionately at every event.

Last month, Year 4 completed a residential visit to Sayers Croft and did lots of exciting activities to build resilience and independence (such as wall climbing, archaeological excavations and spinning wool into yarn, as part of their topic on Vikings).

More recently, many of the staff also completed a 15 mile walk across London to raise funds for the Royal Marsden Hospital. The route took them through Chelsea, Putney and Wimbledon before finishing at the Royal Marsden Hospital. There were a few aching feet on the following Monday!

Moving to this week and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is edging ever closer. Over the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June we have planned lots of fun, Jubilee themed activities across the school, all culminating in a wonderful celebratory whole-school picnic on the field on Friday.

Looking forward, I'm sure you are aware that I like to continually improve the facilities at St. Alban's. One potential project is to extend our wildlife area/secret garden and add an outdoor classroom. This would be a wonderful addition with many fantastic benefits for the children but can only be achieved with your help. The school will send further details out after half-term with more information about how you can support us in achieving this ambitious project.

I would like to finish by thanking all of the children and staff for all their hard work this half-term and to wish you all a wonderful Jubilee weekend and half-term break. Thanks for all your support,

**Mr Brannigan**



The ROYAL  
MARSDEN  
Cancer Charity

## Banham Marsden March

A team from St Alban's school took part in the Marsden March on Sunday 22 May raising funds for the Royal Marsden cancer hospital. The sponsored walk was from the Chelsea hospital to the Sutton hospital, a total of 15 miles. It took the team 5 and a half hours to complete the walk and a few sore legs and blisters were gained, but they finished with smiles on their faces and managed to raise a total of £2,330.00. If you would like to sponsor 'Team Albies' please use the following link:

<https://march.royalmarsden.org/team/7f5f96ff-c0cc-4f90-82a5-d6cc347ef297>



**Head  
Teachers  
Award**







## Reception year

Reception have had a fun start to the summer term. We have started our minibeasts topic and so far we have looked at spiders, ladybirds, grasshoppers and snails. We have found out lots of facts about different minibeasts and been very creative with our work! During our Grasshopper week we had a go at seeing if we could jump as far as a grasshopper and we used wooden spoons to make a grasshopper sound with different materials.







We have also been listening to special stories from the Bible each week. We read the story of Noah's Ark and had a go at re-enacting it. We paired up as animals and marched two-by-two to the "Ark". We sang the Noah's Ark marching song and worked in pairs to board the Ark.







## Year 1

This half term Year 1 have been busy learning about the Seaside. In Geography we have been discussing why people visit the seaside. We have identified the human and physical features and even carried out group research, made an informative poster and presented our findings to the rest of the class which was great fun!



In Music, we have been composers, creating pieces to reflect the seaside. We have chosen different instruments to make the sounds and have thought about dynamics to create a pattern of the waves.



In Science, we have been learning about Plants. We are growing beans and nasturtiums. We are impressed by how quickly the beans are growing.







## Year 2

Year 2 have been working on their **DT** project this term. They are using felt to create their very own Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration bunting. They have learnt how to do a running stitch and will use this to make the bunting and also to decorate it with their own designs. They have had to learn to be resilient when doing this and have all supported each other in the classroom which has been lovely to be a part of.



In **English** the children have been learning all about the lives of two very important significant historical figures, Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale.

They have read books all about both of these amazing women and learnt about their difficult journeys to support the soldiers in the Crimean war.

LC: Can I write a diary entry as Florence?

17.5.22

3<sup>rd</sup> November 1854

Dear Diary,  
Today I have arrived at the Scutari hospital in the nice, happy Turkey with my beautiful excited Nightingale nurses ready to work. When I arrived, I felt worried because the soldiers were on the floor hurt & dying. Also, when I arrived the angry, horrible doctors that said no we do not need your help because you are too drunk to help the soldiers. Tomorrow, I will clean the hospital and next I will make good and get new bedding for the soldiers to sleep on.

Love Florence

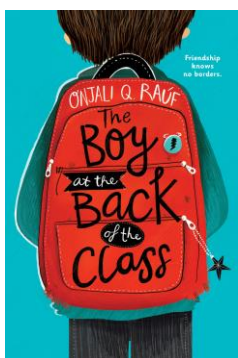
Great work  
✓ first person  
✓ past tense  
✓ adjectives



## Year 3

It has been a very busy term for Year 3.

In Science, the children have been learning about the topic of Light. We have considered what the meaning of light is, where we can find a light source and what happens when the light source is blocked by an object. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning how to make their own shadow and how light travels in straight line. Over the term, the children learnt about the importance of reflective surfaces and how to keep us safe when travelling in the evening. Finally, the children worked together to make a list of top tips in staying safe in the sun! This included being aware of the ultraviolet rays and how to check that our sun cream will protect us when we are in the sun.



In English, our class reader has been called "The Boy at the Back of the Class" which is a very powerful and emotive story that follows the life of a refugee child who has had to flee from their country and start their new life in a new school. This story has been a fantastic reading source for Year 3 as the children have been able to understand and research about the challenges refugees face and how as a community, the story shows how people look after refugees. Over the term, children have been able to put create an informative leaflet about how to support refugees and how we can show respect. We look forward to continuing with our class reader and find out what happens next term.

This term, the children have been learning about the art of Opera Music. We have learnt about the styles of Opera and been learning the techniques of Opera through George Bixet's Carmen Opera. The children have been learning about the story of Carmen and how she meets Don Jose, the local soldier and sacrifices everything to be with her. We look forward to the children preparing a performance of the opera and how they will illustrate story through song and movement.



In Art this half term we have been looking at painting. The children have been looking at various artists such as Frida Kahlo and Joan Miro. We have been focusing on the different types of painting as well as the emotions and colours used by artists.

The children really enjoyed creating their own abstract piece of art that portrayed an emotion or an event that is happening in the world. It was lovely to see what the children painted as well as explain why they chose those colours and why this piece of art was special to them.

In Geography this half term we have been looking at Europe. The children began by using atlases to name the countries of Europe. Throughout this topic the children have looked at map keys and what the symbols mean. The topic has also focused on Italy. We have looked at the physical geography of Italy, including the mountain ranges and their names.





## Year 4

For two nights at the end of April, Year 4 visited Sayers Croft, an outdoors learning centre in Surrey. As well as developing independence and resilience from being away from home, we also completed a range of activities from pond dipping to wall climbing, which tested the children's ability to overcome challenges under pressure and in a different learning environment.







In order to deepen the children's knowledge and understanding of their Vikings topic, Year 4 visited Butser Ancient Farm on the 17th May. The day incorporated activities relevant to the Vikings, such as performing archaeological excavations, spinning wool into yarn and handling artefacts, all located amongst the reconstructed ancient buildings and grounds.



We have begun our new RE topic of Reconciliation – Building Bridges. In our first lesson we explored what makes a bridge stable and how this can be similar to a bridge of friendship. The children enjoyed making cross-curricular links between RE and DT and exploring how stable their bridges were.





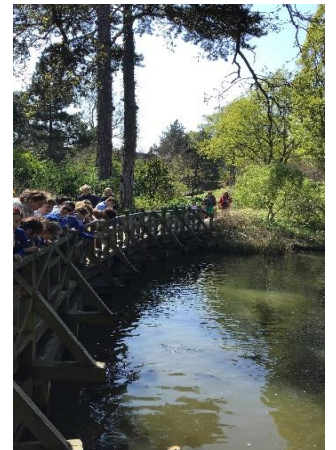


## Year 5

Year 5 have been taking advantage of the recent weather and doing lots of learning outside. We have had debates, held discussions, done lots of drama using different techniques and learnt our maths in a practical way. We hope the lovely weather continues and we can keep learning outside!



As part of our Science topic, we visited RHS Wisley and took part in a fascinating plant workshop. We then continued our learning about plants back at school. It was really interesting to examine different types of seeds, plants and climates, as well as plant our own which we then took home.







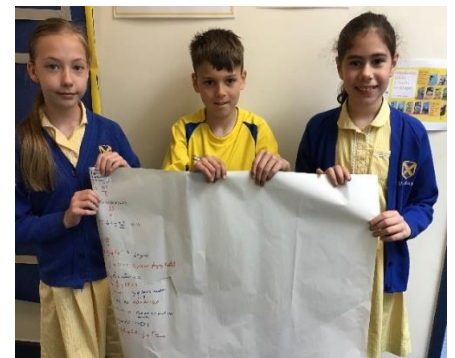
In DT we have been making our own bag for life. We have learnt to use different types of stitches, such as running and blanket stitches, to help us create our bags. We have all enjoyed getting creative and personalising our bags!



In Computing, we have been learning how to code. This has been challenging at times however we have all persevered and managed to complete our activities.



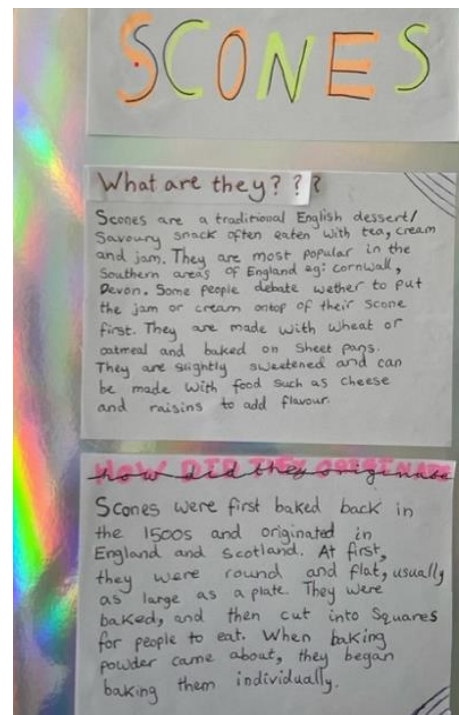
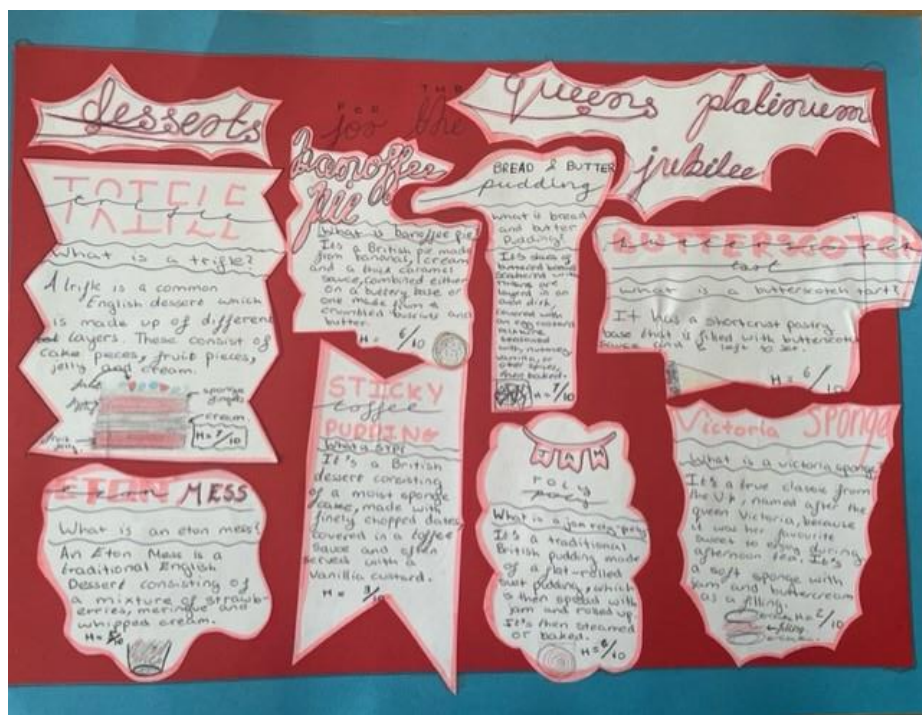
In Year 5 we work best when we work together to share our ideas. Cooperative learning involves a lot of teamwork, listening to and sharing of ideas. We like to 'maggie' great ideas from others and in this way we all learn from each other.





## Year 6

As part of their DT lessons, Year 6 have been researching different types of traditional British and Commonwealth puddings/desserts from previous decades. For example: trifle, bread & butter pudding and jam Roly-Poly. They will then have the chance to make their dessert in school and taste them as part of an afternoon tea celebration for the Queen's platinum jubilee.



In their Maths lessons, Year 6 have been working on their own theme park investigation where they are planning, building and thinking about how their theme park will operate. They are using their knowledge of measurement, number and money to help them with their investigation. Their decisions throughout the investigation will be crucial as to whether or not their theme park will make a profit or a loss. Year 6 completed their plans on the computer, making sure they budgeted for all of their design decisions.

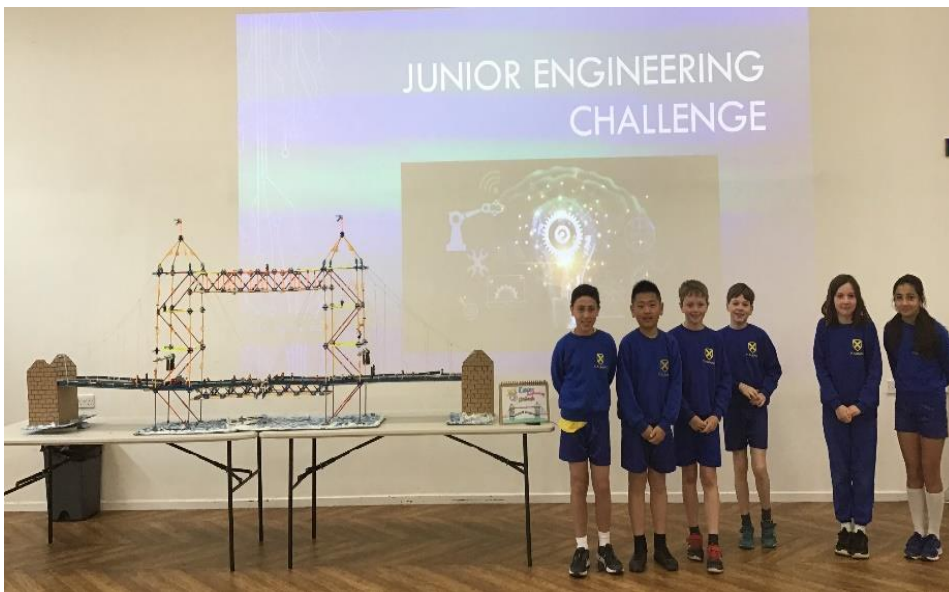
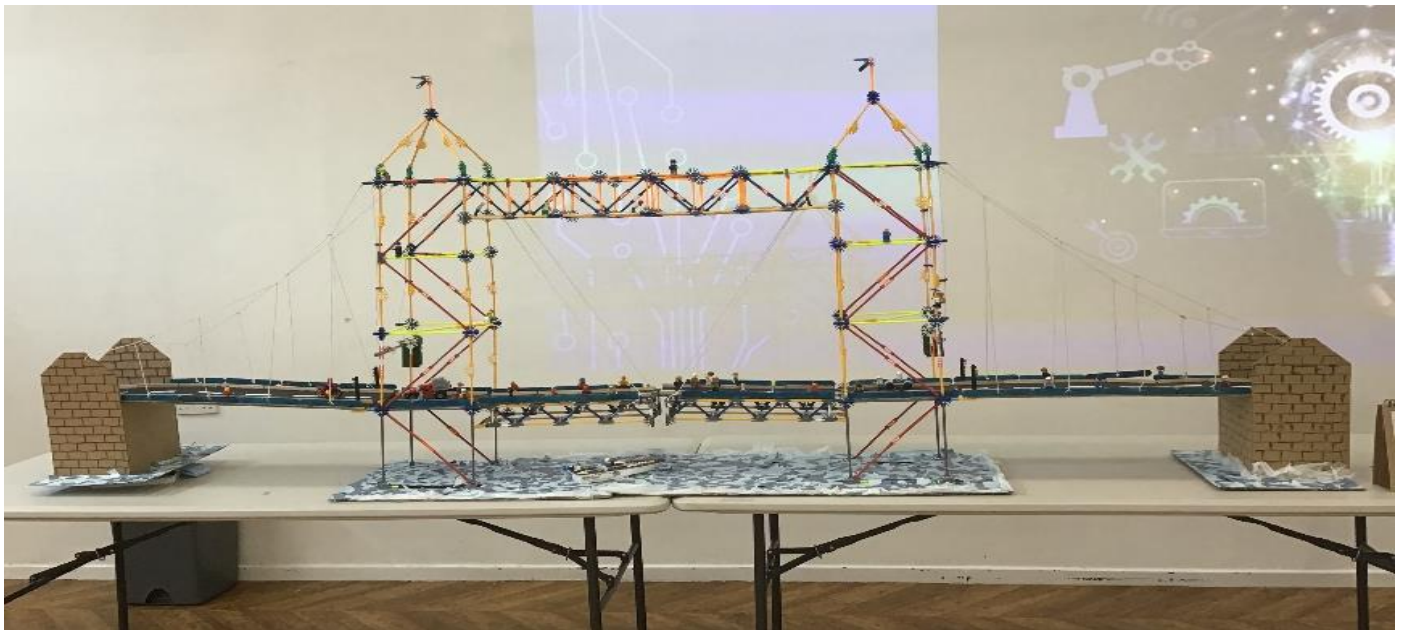
Rollercoaster £50000				£200	Dodgems £25000	£200	First Aid Centre £8000		£200	Toilets £1000		£40	Car Park (1600 spaces) £8000	
				£40		£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40			
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Water Ride £50000						Shop £8000		£40	Ferris Wheel £50000	£40	£40	£40		£40
								£40		£40	£40	£40	£40	£40
Trees £1600	Picnic Benches £400				Bin £50	£40	£40	£40		£40	£40	£40	£40	Bin £50
	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40		£40	£40	£40	£40	Café £8000
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Picnic Benches £600						Bin £50	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	Trees = £600	

[illegible]



## St Albans Junior Engineering Challenge

Over the last term, some of the Year 6 children have been working with an Engineer to create a model of a bridge with a moving element. They were given a design brief of building a bridge that was over 1.5 meters long and 1.2m tall, as well as having a motor to allow the bridge to open and close. They began by exploring a range of local bridges and decided they wanted to build Tower Bridge as they really liked the design of it. They created a structure using a range of square and triangle shapes, whilst experimenting with the bracing to ensure the structure was strong and secure. Next, they experimented with string and the motors to find the best way to allow the bridge to move up and down without it getting tangled. Finally, they added the finishing touches using a range of different materials to make it a true model of the bridge. They had to use their skill set of problem solving, perseverance and team work to create the finished design.



## Dorking Hall

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 65 of our KS2 children attended the Primary Music Festivals at Dorking Halls. The children have been practicing for many months to prepare for this special event with learning a wide range of songs ranging from World Music, to Folk Music, to audience singalongs. The children performed a special arrangement all about caring for 'My Planet'. The children thoroughly enjoying the different types of songs and learning to sing as part of a choir with over 200 children. The children performed the music to a great audience and even encouraged the audience to participate too! We are very proud of all of the children who participated in the Primary Music Festival. Well done!







## Musician of the MAT!



On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, two of our pupils were selected to compete in the Xavier Primary Musician of the MAT. Over eleven schools participated in this special event. Blaire Lau (Year 3) and Joseph Erdelyi (Year 6) were invited to perform their pieces. Blaire (Year 3) performed a piece called Tico-Tico No Fuba by Zequinha de Abreu on her flute and Joseph performed a piece called Rêverie by Claude Debussy. Joseph Erdelyi was the winner of the Primary Musician of the MAT.

Congratulations to both children who represented the school!



## Football Champions!

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, the Y5/6 boys' football team played against Claygate in the final of the Esher District Football competition. The match score finished at 5-2 to St. Alban's! This is the first time in at least over 15 years that the school have ever won this accolade! Congratulations to George Patton (Captain), Henri Pursey (Captain), Felix King, Archie Baker, Jayden Kafuti, Tyler Howard, Eden Harris & Oliver Cooper who played tremendously. A special thank you to Joel Kibbule, Jenson Harris, Samuel Hopkins & Bea Crampsie who also played as part of the team in earlier matches during the year. A notable thank you to Mr Baker & Mr Cooper who helped support and coach the boys throughout the year.





## Information from the school office

### Parking and road safety

We would like to remind and encourage all parents to park safely and considerately.

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.

- **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

### 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.

### Attachments

- Elmbridge Family Centres – Free Support and Advice





## 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
Miss E Daly	DSL

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

[dsl@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:dsl@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk)