

School Newsletter

July 2022



ST. ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEAD THE WAY

End of summer term 2

Dear Parents,

It's that time of year again! We are at the end of another Summer term and your children are preparing to move to another year group. Where has the time gone?

Our weather maps are all in shades of red and orange - but we are still smiling. There is so much to be grateful for and much to be proud of. Your children have had a fantastic year. We were visited by Ofsted in the autumn term and we had our RE Inspection all in the same year, both of which were graded outstanding (which is extremely difficult to attain nowadays). During these inspections the children shone and you could see how proud they all are of their school.

Despite the disruption over the past 2 years our Year 6 children again performed brilliantly in their SATs tests. However, we are much more than Ofsted and tests. The children have a rich curriculum to enjoy at St. Alban's including and this year saw residentials, Shakespeare workshops, ZooLab, Illyria Theatre, Music Festivals, Talent Show, our Jubilee Street Party and a wide variety of sports to name a few.

I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you for all your support. Have a great summer!

Mr Brannigan



Reception year

It's been all minibeasts in Reception! We visited Gatton Park on our school trip. We had fun finding different minibeasts and singing songs about them. We saw millipedes, woodlouse, worms and we even got close to a real beehive! We had lovely weather and got to have a picnic outside. It was a long day full of activities and most of us fell asleep on the coach home.



We have also been carrying on our minibeast topic in the classroom. The most exciting part was getting to look after real caterpillars! We put each tiny caterpillar into a pot with food and watched them grow over a few weeks. They started to go into their cocoons very quickly because of the heat. Eventually, we went outside and released them as butterflies.





We were also lucky enough to be visited by the Zoo Lab. We got to see cockroaches, tortoises, giant snails and a snake! Some of us had a go at touching and holding the animals. We also saw a tarantula and a scorpion but we only had a close look at them.





Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed a jam-packed summer term. The children thoroughly enjoyed our school trip to Brooklands Museum (10/6/22) at the start of our History topic "Explorers." We were fascinated hearing about Hilda Hewlett's life and all the amazing things she accomplished, finding about changes to aircrafts over the years and even walking through Concorde! Mid-way through the topic, we were fortunate to have a talk from a parent about Shackleton's expedition, which we loved!



Sports day (5/7/22) was a great success and the children loved taking part in all of the events. The children's highlights were sprinting, the sack race and dancing with Ms Allen, we hope you, as parents, enjoyed them too!

Arts Week – We were very lucky to have enjoyed an outdoor performance of Peter Pan with the whole school as well as a Shakespeare workshop. During the week, we all created wonderful pieces of city-based art. St George focussed on London and Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and St Thomas chose Nairobi combining marbling and collage skills.





Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed a very sunny day at Painshill Park (near Cobham). While there, we explored the beautiful grounds and did some pond dipping at the side of the lake. Favourite parts of the day were the crystal grotto, the sheer variety of creatures that our dipping revealed, and the very lively presentation style of our education guide for the day. The trip linked to two of our science topics (plants and animals), and enabled the children to do some practical work in a completely different environment.





Year 3

Carmen

This term, Year 3 has worked wonderfully as a team to explore and recreate the opera 'Carmen'. The children have enjoyed learning about the intriguing life of Seville and how our characters interact with each other. Year 3 have learnt to embody their characters and portray emotions through both song and movement. Our favourite song the children have performed to their teachers is 'Children's Chorus' and have consolidated their performance skills.



History

In History, the children have been looking at the Roman Empire. Firstly, the children learnt about how Rome came to be through the story of Romulus and Remus. Year 3 explored the leadership of Italy through their Emperors and dictators. The children went on to explore what the Romans believed in and how they worshipped their Gods and Goddesses. Year 3 were amazed to find out the similarities between the Roman and Greek Gods and how the Romans would worship them. It is important that the children have thought about what the Romans did for us such as the alphabet and aqueducts. The children had great fun recreating some of the most famous battle formations that the Romans used to grow their Empire.

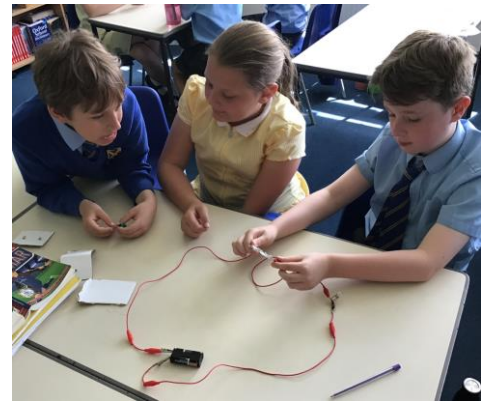
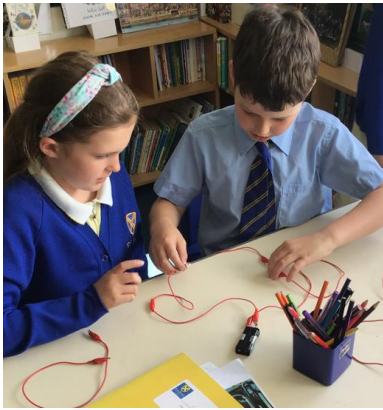
Science – Animals Including Humans

This half term Year 3 have been learning about the human body and how we can stay healthy. The children considered the meaning of 'healthy' and how we can maintain a 'balanced diet' from a child to an adult. This has been beneficial to Year 3 as they have explored the nutritional value of what we eat. The children have learnt about the human skeleton and its functions to keep us alive. They explored how ligaments help our bones to move and have created some fantastic models to show the movement of ligaments in the human hand.



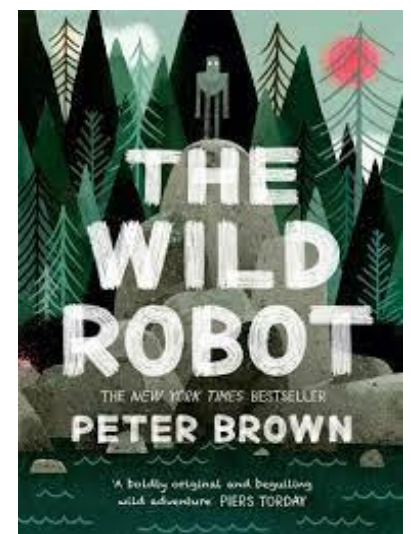
Year 4

This term in Science, Year 4 have been learning all about electricity. During this topic, we have making circuits and testing which materials are conductors and insulators, as well as using and applying this knowledge to make our own switches. The children have really embraced the practical nature of this topic and have enjoyed hypothesising and unpicking their results, searching for patterns as well as suggesting reasons for any unexpected findings. We have been particularly impressed with the scientific language and questioning used by the children throughout this topic.



In English, the children have been captivated by our focus text – *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. The story follows a robot's journey in the wild and we have all enjoyed hearing about how the main character, Roz, navigates this strange situation. The children have been inspired to do some amazing writing based on this text including; recounts, persuasive letters and arguments for a debate.

The story ends with a tense cliff-hanger but luckily, there is a sequel so we're sure that many Year 4s will enjoy reading it as part of their summer reading challenge.





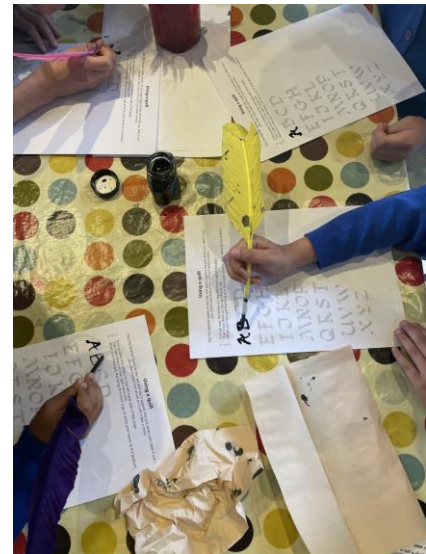
Year 4 created a stunning re-enactment of 'Macbeth' in our Shakespeare drama workshop this term. The children considered the behaviour of the key characters and worked in groups to recreate the main scenes. It was fascinating to see how engaged the children were in a timeless classic that was first performed over 400 years ago. They used their inference skills to fully immerse themselves into the story and consider the motivations behind each character's actions. As well as benefitting from the opportunity to express themselves theatrically, the children's eyes were opened to the complexities of life in Elizabethan Britain. We had fascinating discussions about the differences between that era and the present day.



Year 5

Year 5 have been very busy this half term! We have been on trips to both Chertsey Abbey and Wintershall.

During our time at Chertsey Museum, we explored the museum artefacts, used quills to write the alphabet and our names, tried Tudor dancing and took a tour of the Abbey Grounds. We found out lots of interesting facts about how the Tudors impacted our local area.



We spent a lovely day in the sun at Wintershall watching the Life of Christ. It was brilliant to see the performance of all the bible stories we have been learning about whilst at school and take time to reflect on our own lives.

In French, we have been learning about artists, in particular, Monet. We created our own Art inspired by him. We researched and then used water colours to paint our Monet inspired art.



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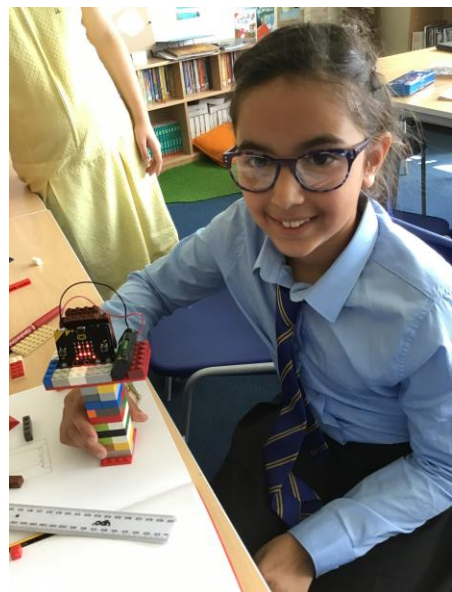




At the end of June, lots of Year 5 children took part in the Elmbridge Music Festival at ACS Cobham. It was an absolutely fantastic evening and was the culmination of months of hard work by our children. We are so proud of them for performing on such a large stage and in front of hundreds of people.



We have been completing a DT/Computing project this half term, which has been using Computer aided design to create a sensor for an animal. We coded and then designed a case using Lego. The children demonstrated brilliant resilience whilst coding and thought of some great ideas for the cases.



Year 6

Year 6 have had a very busy half term. We thoroughly enjoyed our weekend in the Isle of Wight. We went out on kayaks and paddleboards, went on Keel boats, swam in the sea and even had time to dance and sing to our Hairspray songs! It was fantastic to see Year 6's independence and confidence grow over the weekend. They jumped into the sea from the pontoon, did some crabbing, played lots of team games and loved the disco!



Year 6 spent the day at Wintershall for an end of Year 6 retreat day. It was a lovely way to reflect on the end of their journey at primary school and look ahead to the future. The children enjoyed making paper aeroplanes with their hopes for the future written on them and then flying them from the top of the hill, meditating in the beautiful fields and reflecting on challenges and memories made over the course of Year 6.



St Alban's Got Talent

This year, lots of children have put request into the School Parliament ideas boxes. A request that came up time and time again was to have a celebration of all of the talent we have in our school. From this, Filip, Asa and Millie had a brilliant idea to hold the first St Alban's Got Talent Show. Every child was able to take part if they wanted to. A winner was chosen from each class to go through to the year group final and from this one winner per year group went into the whole school final. It was a brilliant event and a wonderful way to celebrate the amazing talent we have here at St Alban's.

The overall **WINNERS** were:

1 st place	Christian	Y4	St Clare
2 nd place	Joseph	Y1	St Thomas
3 rd place	Lottie	Y5	St John

Well done to everyone who took part, you are all very talented children!



Illyria Theatre

On Wednesday 6th July, all of the children were fortunate enough to get to watch a fantastic production of Peter Pan performed by a team of professional actors from the Illyria theatre company.

The actors were fantastic and all of the children were thoroughly engaged with the production. The flying scenes were particularly popular!



The Queen's Jubilee

Everyone had fun celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee just before half term. Every class learned about the Queen's life and reign, and then the whole school came together to celebrate with a Street (Field?!) Party. On a beautiful sunny afternoon there was much eating of cake, much dancing, and lots of excellent organisation from KS2 children to get all the chairs and tables set up and put away again.



Shakespeare Workshops

On Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th July we were delighted to be able to welcome Jo Stokes from As Creatives back to St Alban's to deliver some fantastic, interactive workshops based on a number of different Shakespeare plays. Children from Reception to Year 5 were able to learn about a play in depth and even practise using some Shakespearian verse! Some of the plays explored were A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth. It was wonderful to see children engaging with Shakespeare's work in such a lively and engaging way.





RE Council Trip to Worth Abbey

On Wednesday 22nd June, the RE council were invited to attend the Good Shepherd Celebration at Worth Abbey. Schools from across the diocese were asked to create and bring a 'Sacred Heart of Jesus' through Art and it was lovely to see the different interpretations across the diocese. The children were fortunate to have a chance to speak with Bishop Richard Moth after the service and even joined in a photo with our children.





Digi-leaders Trip

On Monday 13th June, some of our Digi-leaders were invited to sky studios in Osterley to learn about the work of a news reporter.

The children were taken on a tour of the studio and watched where the news team show their 'breaking news' section. The children were given roles to edit, create and present a news report on the future of technology. Each team were given a specific role in the presentation and had to create their content, prepare their outfits and then record their presentation using one of the official Sky filming cameras. The children absolutely loved being physically engaged in every part of the process



Fantastic Fred

On Monday 4th July, we were lucky to have, 'The Fantastic Fred' Experience come into school to host workshops with the children. They taught us about the importance of having good mental health and some things we can do to make sure we look after our mental health. It was funny, engaging and very educational. All the children and adults absolutely loved it!



FOOD

Eating the right foods

REST

Getting enough sleep

EXERCISE

Being active

DEVICES

Managing time on digital devices





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

Attendance Expectations for Next Academic Year

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have 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.

If you feel that your absence should be considered for exceptional circumstances to have leave approved, please complete a 'Request for leave of Absence' form that is available from our school website. The form should be submitted to the school office and at least 2 weeks' notice is required. Please see attached letter regarding Penalty Notices.



Uniform

We would like to remind all our families about our uniform expectations. We appreciate there have been a range of reasons for a lapse in uniform expectations however to ensure that every pupil is dressed appropriately in September, we are taking the opportunity to remind all families of the school uniform policy now.

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. It is always a pleasure to see our pupils looking smart and taking pride in their uniform. This pride in themselves, ultimately leads to pride in their school work.

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. Children with pierced ears should have their earrings removed before they come to school; staff members are not permitted to remove children's earrings. Any parents wishing to have their children's ears pierced are asked to have this done at the beginning of the summer holidays so that earrings can then be left out when returning to school in September.
- 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.
- Parents are encouraged to buy a strong pair of black shoes. **Trainers, or shoes in the style of trainers are not acceptable**, unless for medical reasons.

We thank you for your continued support with this.

Attachments

Surbiton Hockey Club – Bring a Friend Day
Parenting Puzzle
Summer Cricket Camp
Penalty Notice



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	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