



Miss E Daly - Headteacher

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St. Alban's Catholic Primary School Breakfast Chess Club **Autumn Term 2026**

Thursday mornings 7.45am until 8.30am 10th September to 10th December 2026

Dear Parents,

Chess is continuing at St Alban's in Autumn Term 2026! Starting again, on Thursday 10th September 2026. With limited places available, it is open to **Y2-Y6 boys and girls** of any standard including complete beginners on a **first-come-first-served** basis.

We play and learn about strategy and tactics together

Chess **improves concentration, memory and calculating ability. It also develops cognitive thinking** and analytical skills, training the mind to **plan ahead**.

Although fun, it is not all about winning. They will learn from their losses and become more **resilient** and how to stay **calm under pressure**. You will see your child grow in confidence as they progress!

All children will be entered for the popular [UK Chess Challenge](#) (70,000 kids nationwide take part!) which starts in the Spring Term with many prizes including opportunities to become Mega Finalists. At our other schools we achieved a total of 38 Giga Finalists last year and two Challengers.

My name is Mark Hogarth, I am a very experienced Chess teacher, Junior Chess County selector and qualified Chess Arbiter. **Along with Hilary Hogarth we have taken over from Angus James. He has taught chess at the school for many years with great success and will be sadly missed. We wish him well.**

Complete beginners are **taught from scratch** until they are ready to be assimilated into the main group which covers Openings/middlegame strategy/basic endgames & checkmating patterns.

County U11 Chess Selector • England Senior Team Player • Chess Arbiter • **managed teams nationally/internationally**

Whilst working at **Goldman Sachs** I also successfully pioneered Chess Partners as part of the Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership a Charity, teaching Primary School kids in London's East End.

The club will run for 13 weeks at £8.50 per session so £110 as follows:

Thursday 7.45-8.30am Y2 to Y6 £110 10th Sep – 19 Oct Closed Half Term then 5 Nov – 10 Dec (13 weeks)

Prospective members can request a place by emailing hilary.hogarth@btinternet.com 07976 639250 the following info **asap**:

1. Your Child's Name
2. Year Group and Class
3. Chess Ability (e.g. beginner, basic moves, castling, chess notation)
4. Parent/Guardian Contact Name, email address and mobile number **(2 mobile numbers required)**
5. Details of any allergy, medical needs (including use of inhalers and epi-pens)

Entries will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Places will go fast. We will email you directly if we have space for your child, and at that stage we will send you our **payment instructions** and general joining instructions.

Regards, Mark and Hilary Hogarth, Chess Teachers

We will on occasion will be taking photos of the children for the School Newsletter. Please email us to **opt out of this** if you **do not consent**
N.B. Sessions will only be refunded in the event of a whole school closure **except** when a **force majeure**. No refunds given **after** Week 2.