

# School Newsletter

## October 2023



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

### End of Autumn 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been fantastic to see how well all the children have settled back into the school this half term.

I wanted to say a huge well done to all the children in Reception who have all made a super start. A few weeks ago, we had a Headteacher from another school visit us and they were very impressed with how calm and purposeful the whole school was and particularly with our Reception children. It's been great to see the children go about their learning with such determination and enthusiasm.

Our playground refurbishment has now been completed and it looks amazing! We now have 3 new short tennis courts and a basketball/netball court. The children have really enjoyed playing on this new area and it will be used for a range of sports and it's great to see loads of children playing badminton recently. A huge amount of the funding for this project came from the monthly contributions parents make. Without these monthly contributions this project would probably have been delayed for a couple of years or not been possible at all.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work and dedication. A final thank you to all the parents for their support, encouragement and kind words which make such a difference to our staff.

Best wishes,  
Mr Brannigan



## Reception

This half term we have loved welcoming our new reception children into school. They have settled in really well and are very eager to begin their learning in the mornings.



We have been learning a range of traditional tales in class and have had the best time retelling the stories with puppets and using our role play area. The children have really engaged with the creative activities that we provided that links to each story.



We have also been focusing on learning our friends names and learning how to co-operate negotiate while choosing our learning. We have plenty of time to move our bodies too! We all love Miss Allen's dance lessons and putting our fine and gross motor skills to the test in our outdoor learning environment.





## Year 1

In history, we have been looking at 'toys and games' to understand what our grandparents might have played with and comparing them with the toys we play with today. We had a lot of fun playing with the old toys that Chertsey Museum brought in to show us and inspired by our English text 'Lost toys in the Museum', we even made our own toy museum to display our favourite toys.



Inspired by our Animal topic in Science, we designed an animal hand puppet in Design and Technology. Practicing our cutting and joining skills we had to add animal features to bring our puppet to life using different materials and equipment.







## Year 2

Year 2 have made a fantastic start to the year. We have had a big focus on Paddington Bear in English and Geography.



In DT this term, we have made Paddington a vehicle to travel around London and visit all the sites we have been looking at in Geography. We designed and then built our cars using wheels and axels and then went out onto the playground to test them.







## Year 3

### Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum

We started the term with our exciting Stone Age experience. We met our Stone Age guide and went back in time to the Stone Age. We took part in the following activities: Spear making, fire lighting, Stone Age painting, and Stone Age shelter building. We all had a fabulous day and it helped with the children's engagement and learning this half-term.



Since our trip we have used our knowledge to help us write instructions and recipes for Stone Age people. We have also extended our knowledge of the Stone Age period of History.

In Science we have been learning about rocks. Here are some photographs of us classifying rocks.

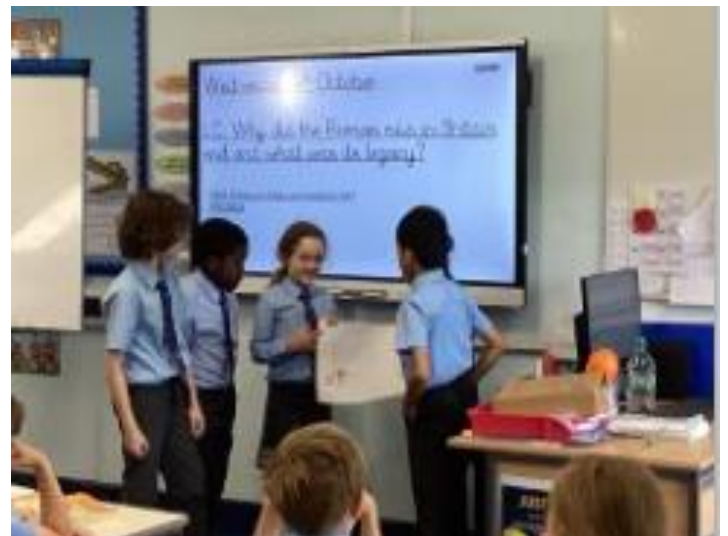






## Year 4

This half term, year 4 have been studying the Roman Empire and the impact that it has had on our lives today. In groups, we carried out research and created presentations to showcase our learning. Linked to our topic, we have also been creating our own motifs in music using untuned percussion instruments for a Roman song that we have learnt, 'Roman Roads'.







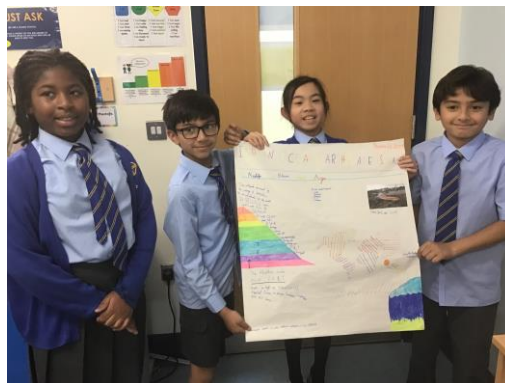
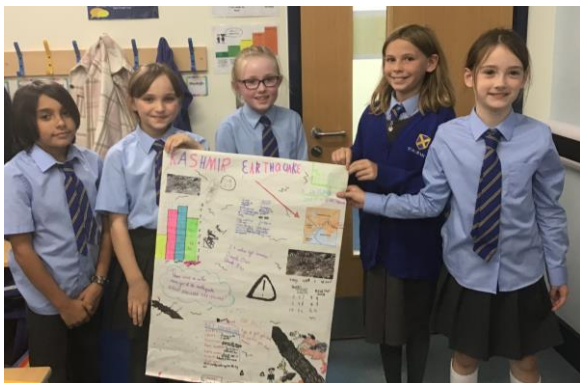
## Year 5

Year 5 have had a brilliant start to the year. The children have settled well into our upstairs classrooms and have enjoyed taking on responsibility in the school such as play leading and setting up the hall for lunch. Our learning has been fascinating! We have been studying earthquakes and their causes in Geography, whilst investigating different forces in Science.

Making seismographs in Geography:



Researching some of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded:



Working together to solve place value riddles in maths:







## Investigating the effect of friction on different surfaces:



## Investigating the effect of water resistance on differently shaped objects:



## Our class debate on the topic: Whose fault was the accident? (based on our class text: Not My Fault by Cath Howe.







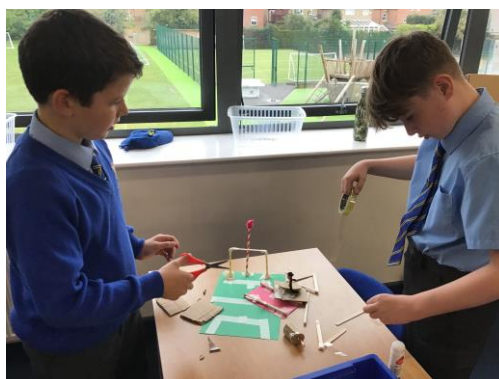
## Year 6

Year 6 have had a brilliant beginning to their final year at St Alban's. All children have been amazing role models around the school, taking on leadership positions and buddying up with a child from Reception. There have been a lot of exciting activities and learning taking place.

We have been taking advantage of the fantastic weather and getting outside for our learning. We have utilised the school grounds for several subjects such as maths, PSHE, RE and Science.



In DT, we have been looking at ways to improve a local playground. After a rather wet visit to the park, we discovered that not only was it rather run down but there was nowhere for visitors to shelter! We have been investigating structures and mechanisms in an effort to build a model of a much improved alternative.





In science we have been exploring our topic of Light. Year 6 have been demonstrating their maturity by designing their own experiments to prove scientific theories about shadows, reflections and rays of light. They have done some excellent research into our Scientist of the Topic: Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen).

LC: Who has shaped our views on the Science of Light and optics?

**ALHAZEN**

**Early Life**  
 Born: 1<sup>st</sup> July 965 AD  
 Basra (Iraq)  
 Death: 1040 AD  
 Cairo (Egypt)

Alhazen was a mathematician, scientist and astronomer. He had lots of discoveries involving light and optics and is renowned as 'The first true scientist' and 'The father of optics'.

**Discoveries**  
 Alhazen wrote a book called 'The book of optics' or 'The book of light' which contained articles of how light gets to the eye by travelling in rays. However, Alhazen discovered two theories before creating the book of optics. They were the emission theory and the intromission theory.

**Where he lived**  
 Alhazen lived in Egypt in what we now call

protective custody. It was here that Alhazen created the book of optics.

**Life Outside Science**  
 Alhazen was unhappy about life because of the uncertainties of true religion as he was a very faithful Muslim.

**Alhazen and the Nile**  
 While Alhazen was in Egypt the ruler there was Caliph Al-Hakim. He was a very cruel leader but also was very fond of science. This meant that he began to take note of Alhazen. His game was beginning to grow.

During the time Alhazen was at Egypt it rained a lot on the River Nile. But when it had its annual flooding it killed all the crops. Alhazen thought that by building a dam he could stop this. Al-Hakim was delighted of this and put him head of the operation.

However, when walking along the Nile he realised he underestimated the river's abilities. He knew that Al-Hakim would severely punish him so he pretended that he went mad and was confined to house arrest until Al-Hakim died in 1021 AD.







## Y6 Leadership Team

Congratulations to the following Y6 pupils who are leaders of our pupil leadership teams.



Lilly-Grace Johnston Hobbs  
Head Girl



Lochie Wallingford  
Head Boy



Roko Mckeen and Olivia Shitta  
Westminster House Captains



Ronnie Down  
Deputy Head Boy



Isabella Abou Hassan  
Deputy Head Girl



Noah Crews and Anita Figueiredo  
Macorn  
Lindisfarne House Captains



Amelia Mendleton and Sam  
Waters  
Canterbury House Captains



Harry Patton and Yenul  
Weeraratne  
Glastonbury House Captains



Rose Hagan  
Zac Wisch  
School Librarians





## Green Team

The Green Team is an amazing group of children who have been elected by their peers to make the school as environmentally friendly as possible. As a team, we will meet fortnightly to discuss initiatives, share suggestions and set whole school tasks to help achieve our goals.



This year's members have already wowed us with their enthusiasm and fantastic ideas to make our school an even better place to be. They have shown a real willingness to pick up litter around the school, turn off lights when rooms are not in use and educate younger children about the importance of looking after our school environment.



This year, we are delighted to be taking part in the RHS School Gardening Campaign and we are so pleased to have achieved the first of five awards being offered. The Green Team along with other green-fingered enthusiasts from across the school will be working hard to develop gardening in our environment, learn new gardening skills, grow a range of plants and support wildlife. Through our involvement in this campaign, we know the children will improve their physical and emotional wellbeing through their connection with nature, encourage healthy eating and build on life skills such as teamwork, resilience and confidence.







## School Parliament

This half term we have been busy recruiting our new School Parliament team for this new academic year. It was lovely to see so many children taking part in the School Parliament elections. Through an application and voting process, two children were selected from each class in Years three to six. We will also be joined by the newly appointed Head Girl and Boy and their deputies.

We will be meeting regularly to discuss ideas for how we can best improve our school. We want every child to feel valued and so we listen to ideas and feed them back to each other. The new Parliament are very excited to get started.



## RE Council



This half term, we have elected new members of the RE Council for the new academic year. We would like to thank all children who participated in the application and voting process. We will be working with members from Y1 through to Y6 who will represent the voice of their peers.

We will be meeting regularly to discuss ideas and new initiatives as to how we can achieve our school mission and lead the way for others.





## Information from the School Office

### Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We are looking for enthusiastic and reliable Lunchtime Supervisor to join our team.

For further details please see the job advert on Eteach:

<https://www.eteach.com/careers/stalbans-surrey/job/lunchtime-supervisor-1368912/?lang=en-GB>

### Breakfast & After School Club Playworker Vacancy

We are looking for enthusiastic and reliable playworker to join our team.

For further details please see the job advert on Eteach:

<https://www.eteach.com/careers/stalbans-surrey/job/breakfast-and-after-school-club-playworker-1368204/?lang=en-GB>

### Attendance

Our new attendance lead is Miss Daly.

Regular and punctual school attendance is important. St. Alban's Catholic Primary school fully recognises its responsibilities to ensure pupils are in school and on time, therefore having access to learning for the maximum number of days and hours.

We maintain and promote good attendance and punctuality through:

- Raising awareness of attendance and punctuality issues among all staff, parents and pupils.
- Ensuring that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on them for making sure their child attends regularly and punctually.
- Equipping children with the life skills needed to take responsibility for good school attendance and punctuality appropriate to the child's age and development
- Maintaining effective means of communication with parents, pupils, staff and governors on school attendance matters.
- Developing and implementing procedures for identifying, reporting and reviewing cases of poor attendance and persistent lateness.
- Supporting pupils who have been experiencing any difficulties at home or at school, which are preventing good attendance.
- Developing and implementing procedures to follow-up non-attendance at school.

If you would like to discuss your child's attendance or require any additional support, please contact the school office FAO Miss Daly.





## Information from the school office

### Head Bumps

A minor head injury can be a frequent occurrence on the school playground/field. Fortunately, the majority of head injuries are mild and do not lead to complications or require hospital admission. However, a small number of children do suffer from a severe injury to the brain, and concussion, (in particular repeated concussions), can be very serious.

Complications such as swelling, bruising or bleeding can happen inside the skull or inside the brain up to 24 hours after the bump to the head. The presence or absence of a lump at the site of the bump is not an indication of the severity of the head injury.

If a child has a bump to their head at school, they will be given first aid. Then:

If it is a minor bump and they are not distressed/in pain, we will **email** (see template below)

If the child is distressed/in pain, the parent/carer will be contacted by **phone** immediately.

Dear parent/ carer of «FirstName» «LastName»,

Today your child had a minor head bump at school. They have been monitored since the accident and we have not identified anything that caused concern. Please see the white accident slip that your child will bring home for more details.

If any of the symptoms listed below are present, particularly loss of consciousness (even for a short period of time), you should call an emergency ambulance (999 / 112) or NHS Direct on 111 / 0845 4647

- Lasting headache that gets worse or is still present over six hours after the injury
- Extreme difficulty in staying awake, or still being sleepy several hours after the injury. It is fine to let children go to sleep after a slight bump to the head, but you should check on them regularly and make sure you are able to wake them.
- Nausea and vomiting several hours after the injury
- Unconsciousness or coma
- Unequal pupil size
- Confusion, feeling lost or dizzy, or difficulty making sense when talking
- Pale yellow fluid or watery blood, coming from the ears or nose (this suggests a skull fracture)
- Bleeding from the scalp that cannot be quickly stopped
- Not being able to use part of the body, such as weakness in an arm or leg
- Difficulty seeing or double vision
- Slurred speech; and having a seizure or fit





## 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

## 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
Miss E Daly	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs A Mettrick	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs L Atkinson	SLT
Miss P Ruane	SLT

### SEN Team

Mrs A Mettrick	SENCO
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### Safeguarding Team

Mrs L Atkinson	Designated DSL Lead
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)





## Other information

The Cycle Training Team at Surrey County Council are recruiting for Bikeability Cycling Instructors. Please see the link below for more information

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/jobs/search/details?id=29155>

Regards,  
The Cycle Training Team  
Surrey County Council



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

### COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER P/T

The Diocese is seeking to recruit an experienced Communications professional to produce and edit accurate, well-written online and offline content across diocesan platforms telling the Church's story and its contribution to society. The successful applicant will support our Head of Communications in managing the digital and print presence of the Diocese, working on a range of projects and campaigns and supporting the content management of our website and social platforms.

**Salary:** £17,500 (FTE £35,000)

**Hours of work:** Part time (0.5 FTE), 17.5 hours per week

**Location:** Crawley - with hybrid remote working

**Closing date:** Wednesday 15 November

**Visit our website to find out more and apply:** [www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/comms](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/comms)

## Class PE days Autumn 2

Class PE days will remain the same as Autumn 1. They are due to change after Christmas

EYFS	Monday and Friday
Y1	Tuesday and Friday
Y2	Wednesday and Thursday
Y3	Tuesday and Wednesday
Y4	Tuesday and Thursday
Y5	Monday and Thursday
Y6	Monday and Wednesday





## Royal Academy Art: Anna Sophia Faulds (Y6)

My story on how Lady Snake got into the Royal Academy of art is...

It was one rainy day in wet play, I thought of a fun, glamorous, strong female character and that's how Lady Snake came to life. The Summer Art show came up and I was very delighted to know that anyone could enter if they were a child. I just had to upload a piece of art and wait for it to be selected, I was given the opportunity to display my piece of art and I also had to upload a description and my inspiration which I found very exciting. After it got selected, I had a few weeks to make any changes such as putting it on a canvas or framing it. I chose a frame that I thought will match my painting's character.

My family and I had a fun London day when we went to drop it off to the Academy so they could display it. A couple weeks later my family and I were invited back to see it on display, it was like a dream came true to see my work and so many others in the RA. I will encourage all artists at St Albans to submit their work to the RA.



**Well done Anna Sophia!**

## Mini Molesey Theatre Club



[www.minimoleseytc.com](http://www.minimoleseytc.com)





## Online asthma webinar

We are currently working with 'Surrey Heartlands Children & Young People's Asthma Team' to achieve the school's asthma friendly status. Any child who has an asthma diagnosis and/or has been prescribed an inhaler must complete our action plan via Google form. For more information, please contact the school office.



### It's not easy being wheezy



**Does your child  
have asthma?**

**Have they been  
given an inhaler?**

**Do you want to  
know more?**

**Join our online asthma webinar to  
learn more about your child's asthma  
First Thursday of every month at  
19:30 on Microsoft Teams**



**Scan the QR code to sign up or visit <https://bit.ly/3IL8gAz>**

**Surrey Heartlands  
Children and Young People's Asthma Team**  
*beating asthma together*

