School Newsletter February 2024



End of Spring 1

A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Guardians and families,

"And in the end everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this: Father, Child and Love..." Pope John Paul II

As we approach the last day of this half term, I am delighted to reflect on the incredible energy and enthusiasm that has characterised this week at St Alban's. It has been a week filled with both meaningful activities and important reminders for our children's well-being.

We have actively participated in Children's Mental Health Week, a time when we came together to emphasise the importance of mental health and emotional well-being. Our children engaged in various activities and discussions that encouraged them to reflect on their feelings, supporting each other in fostering a positive and nurturing environment.

Additionally, we observed Safer Internet Day, addressing the significance of responsible online behaviour and digital citizenship. Our aim is to empower our children to navigate the digital world safely and make informed choices online.

As we look forward to the upcoming half term break, it is worth noting that the children will be on half term on Tuesday, 13th February, coinciding with Shrove Tuesday, commonly known as Pancake Day. Shrove Tuesday holds special significance in the Christian calendar as the day before the season of Lent begins. It is a time for reflection, repentance, and the opportunity to "shrive" or confess one's sins.

Traditionally, it is a day of feasting before the fasting period of Lent, and many celebrate by indulging in the delicious tradition of making and enjoying pancakes. We hope you have a fantastic Shrove Tuesday, taking in these special moments and appreciate the meaning of new beginnings.

Following Shrove Tuesday, our young ones will celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, 14th February. It is a day dedicated to love and friendship, reminding us to appreciate the connections we share with those around us. We encourage our children to express buckets full of kindness and gratitude to their family members and loved ones on this special day. Happy Valentines Day St Alban's family!

As we enter the half term break, we wish all our families a restful and enjoyable time together - we look forward to hearing about the exciting experiences our children have had when they return to school on Monday, 19th February.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful half term break.

God bless,

Munrik

Zelia Munnik

Contents

<u>Attendance</u>	4
What's coming up	5
Reminders and notices	6
Reception update	8
Year 1 update	9
Year 2 update	10
Year 3 update	12
Year 4 update	14
Year 5 update	16
Year 6 update	18
School parliament update	20
Green Team update	21
<u> Tashni Wimalasuriya – Maths Master!</u>	22
Information from the school office	23
Key staff teams	24
Local support, clubs and news	25

Attendance

Well done to St Thomas, St Peter, St Clare and St Mary for their great attendance this week!

Gold	St Thomas	97.04%
Silver	St Peter	96.67%
Bronze	St Clare & St Mary	96.3%

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.

We would like 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.

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

What's coming up?

Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February		HALF TERM
Thursday, 22 nd February,	9am	Y4 St Clare Class Assembly
Friday, 23 rd February		Y4 St Clare swimming
Friday, 23 rd February	2.30pm	St Alban's Science Exhibition
Tuesday, 27 th February	9.30am	Y6 Mass at St Barnabas
Thursday, 29 th February	9am	Y4 St Josephine Class Assembly
Friday, 1 st March		Y4 St Clare swimming
Tuesday, 5 th March	9.30am	Y5 Mass at St Barnabas
Thursday, 7 th March	9am	Y2 St Peter Class Assembly
Thursday, 7 th March	9.30am	Y4 Mass at St Barnabas
Thursday, 7 th March	5pm	Y6 Assessment Parents Information session via Zoom
Friday, 8 th March		Y4 St Clare Swimming

Reminders and notices

Updating our communications approach

Over the last few weeks, we have been taking a look at how we communicate with our school community, introducing our brand new Instagram account and the Weekly Bulletin. We are committed to maintaining a transparent, open dialogue between school and home – and want your input!

We have put together a short survey to gather your thoughts on our recent changes. We would very much appreciate it if you could complete the survey by clicking the link below so that we can shape our communications to what works best for our parents and carers.

Complete the communications survey here

Illness

Please remember that if your child is sick or has diarrhoea, either at home or at school, you must keep them at home and they mustn't return **until 48 hours after their last episode**. This is very important in helping us prevent the spread of illness within the school.

New car park markings and walkway

Over half term, our staff car park will be marked out with parking bays and a pedestrian walkway. The walkway will lead from the main school entrance to the side entrance (breakfast and after school club pick up and drop off) to the school hall.

It is important that anyone accessing this side entrance uses the marked walkway to ensure everyone's safety.

Authorising others to collect your child

Did you know you can authorise named relatives and friends to collect your child without having to email the school?

- log in to your child's account on Arbor
- add the person as a guardian
- chose whether or not they will also be an emergency contact
- select 'authorise to collect'

Please note: guardian 1 and 2 will receive communicatons from the school regarding your child so anyone you add as a guardian for collections only should be added as a 'guardian 3'. You can add as many 'guardian 3s' as you wish.

School entrance after half term

After half term, entry and exit to and from school grounds will be through the pedestrian gate only. To ensure the safety of our children the vehicle gate will no longer be used.

If you are visiting the school during school hours and are not arriving in a vehicle, please use the intercom on the pedestrian gate.

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 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

Class PE days Spring term 2

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

Safer Internet Day Parent Workshop

The Safer Internet Day online parent workshop was a great success and we have had really positive feedback from those that attended. If you would like to view the recording of the session you can do so by clicking <u>HERE</u> and using the password wH*T83pz

Safeguarding over half term

Staff will not have access to their email over the half term period. If you have a concern about the safety or welfare of a child or family at our school or you are a parent in need of urgent assistance, please email <u>dsl@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk</u> which is monitored throughout the holidays.

Reception

The children have really engaged with our Space topic and have enjoyed the creative activities that we provided that links to it. We have explored our Solar System, made space maps and have learnt the order of the planets. In RE this half term, we have been looking at the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. We have heard the stories of Jesus blessing the small children and the feeding of the five thousand. The children created art work to show their learning, invited friends to an event to show how welcome they are in their lives just like Jesus invites us to be part of God's family.



The children have also been enjoying exploring space through sensory play. We have had coloured rice, a moon base, sensory painting and oobleck We talked about how important the sun was to Earth and how it gives us light. We tested to see how much we could see in a dark void without light and then used torches to act like the sun as a light source.



In Maths we have been looking at capacity and working with the numbers 6,7 and 8. We are learning how these numbers can be represented and which containers have the greatest capacity and why. We have been working on our comparative language and using physical items.





In History, we have been learning about houses and homes, past and present. We were lucky enough to have the Chertsey museum come in to show us house hold items from the Victorian era. We saw chamber pots, got to smell different scents (!) and role played doing house hold chores.



In English, we have been reading the Three Little Pigs and now have been set the challenge of making the pigs a sturdy structure to live in. We have been experimenting with different materials and have practiced joining them together in different ways. Once we have built our structures, the final test will be for them to withstand the wolf's huffing and puffing!



RE

This half term we have been looking at special religious books. Year 2 have looked at what books we found find in a church and the books the community uses during Mass. We have been exploring the different stories and the meaning behind them in RE. In this lesson we looked at the gospel story of John baptising Jesus.



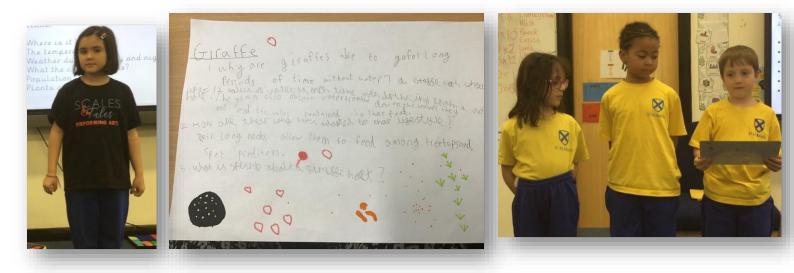
Maths

This half term Year 2 have been learning all about multiplication and division. The children have used active maths to support their understanding. The children have learnt to recognise and create equal groups. We have started learning all about our 2, 5 and 10 times tables.



Geography/Science

The children have been learning about hot and cold places in the world. The children have learnt about the habitats in the hot and cold places and the type of animals who would live in these habitats.



Art

In Art this term, we have been exploring painting and mixed media. We have explored how to add texture, line, shape and composition to create purpose, mood and feelings in our own work. Applying our learning, we painted 'value landscapes' which enabled us to practice working with control and accurately making and applying appropriate amounts of paints.

English

This half term we have enjoyed reading the Iron Man during our reading lessons. We have used the book in our writing lessons and have enjoyed writing a newspaper report based on It. In art we made our own Iron Man, here are some pictures of us with our Iron Man.



Science

In Science we have enjoyed learning about magnets and forces and working scientifically. We have loved working as scientists. Here are some photos of us working scientifically, we even discovered that the attendance cup was magnetic!







Year 4 have worked very hard this half term and we have loved our cross curricular topic on the Anglo-Saxons!

History

In our History lessons this half term, we have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons. After finding out all about what life was like for those living at the time, we had the interesting and creative task of designing our own Anglo-Saxon village, applying everything we had learnt. Take a look at some of our ideas ...



A highlight of this half term was our fantastic Anglo-Saxon workshop. During this exciting day, we took part in a range of activities to teach us more about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain. These included candle-making, jewelry making, weaving, medicine-creating and sewing. We even took part in our own archeological dig to explore historical artifacts.



Computing

We have had the fantastic opportunity of experiencing 'Beyond Blocks' in our computing lessons. These exciting LEGO Robotics sessions have given us new knowledge about computer programming and various STEM skills. We have designed, built and modified different LEGO models – even enhancing them with sensors and motors – and worked collaboratively with each other to solve problems.



Music

This half term, we have been learning a brand new instrument to us: the Toot! The Toot is an excellent stepping stone between the recorder and the flute. Having practiced the basics, we are now learning various songs, including 'Mamma Mia' by ABBA. We are using our new skills to build up towards a concert for our parents next term.

Art

In Art this term, we have been exploring painting and mixed media. We have explored how to add texture, line, shape and composition to create purpose, mood and feelings in our own work. Applying our learning, we painted 'value landscapes' which enabled us to practice working with control and accurately making and applying appropriate amounts of paints.



Science

The spring term began with a trip to the Science Museum! The children had the opportunity to explore the Earth and Space gallery as well as a fascinating session in the Wonderlab. The children really enjoyed being able to experience and experiment with the forces we have been learning about and it was amazing to see how this enhanced their understanding.



English

We were fortunate enough to have the author, Cath Howe, come in and visit us again this term! This time she worked with the children on how to perform poetry. The children have been really inspired by Cath and it's been amazing to see how Cath's love of poetry has passed onto the children.



DT

Our DT topic this term is structures. The children have enjoyed learning about different types of structures and what makes a structure strong. We have been making bridges out of various different materials ready to test them against the design brief. The children have been doing a brilliant job of using the saws to cut wood!



Geography

In Geography, we have been learning about mountains which has really helped develop our understanding of our class book 'The Brockenspectre.' We have learnt about the features of a mountain, how mountains are formed as well as what the climate is like in different mountain ranges. The children particularly enjoyed using atlas' and Google Earth to locate mountain ranges in Europe.



DT

In DT, Year 6 have been making waistcoats for our class mascots to wear. We have combined our sewing and design skills to make a fashionable and durable piece of clothing. It has been fantastic to see how Year 6's confidence with sewing has developed over the years!



Maths

In Maths, we have been using manipulatives, such as Cuisenaire rods and multilink, to enable us to master the challenging concept of algebra. We have found that this has really helped us when forming expressions, solving equations and finding a pair of unknown numbers. We have also been using Active Maths to support our understanding.

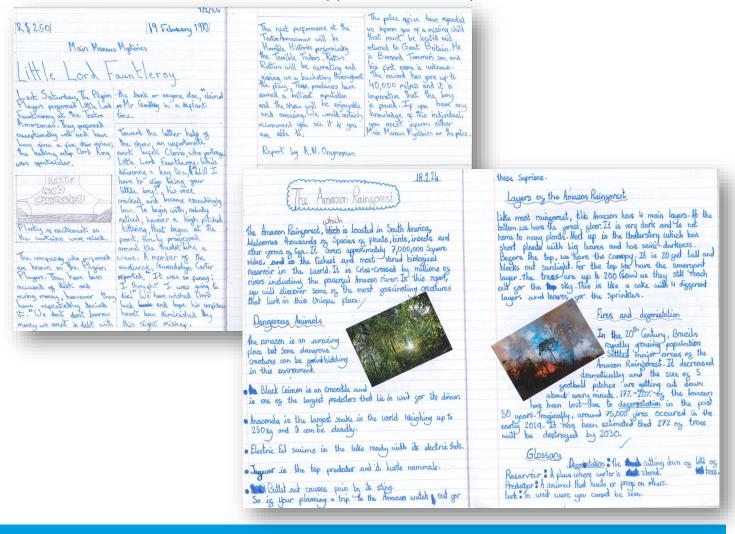


English and Geography

Our learning links closely to our class text 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson. The text is set in the Amazon Rainforest and so we have been diving deeper into South America. We have investigated urbanization in Brazil, finding out about the impact of physical and human features and comparing life in South America to life in our local area.



This term, our writing has been focussed around non-fiction texts. As well as writing some fantastically informative non -chronological reports, we wrote newspaper articles based on events that have happened in 'Journey to the River Sea.'



School Parliament

It has been another busy and successful half term for School Parliament.

During Road Safety Week last term, we wrote a letter to Dominic Raab, our local MP, about our concerns and suggestions about the crossing outside our school. Since then, we have had some very exciting news. We received a response from Mr Raab, informing us that Surrey County Council have agreed to install a zebra crossing outside our school during the Easter holidays! This means that when we come back for the Summer Term, we will have a safe point to cross the road when travelling to and from school.

	HOUSE OF COMMONS
	LONDON SW1A 0AA
Natalia St Alban's Catho Beauchamp Road East Molesey Surrey KT8 2PG	lic Primary School
	16 January 202
Dear Natalia,	
understand your	riting to me about road safety outside St Alban's Catholic Primary School. I concerns about road safety as you and your peers travel to and from school each makes a very good case for road safety measures to be introduced.
introduced, I hav	sit to your school in 2021 to discuss what road safety measures needed to be e remained in close contact with Surrey County Council (who are responsible ensure road safety improvements outside your school are a top priority.
will be installing you come back to	lelighted to let you know that I have now received confirmation that the Counci a zebra crossing outside your school over the Easter holidays. This means wher o school for the Summer Term, you will have a safe point to cross the road as from school.
you travel to and	news for your school community and is as a result of the brilliant campaign St
This is fantastic 1	rliament put together. You should all be really proud of this achievement.
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This is fantastic 1 Alban's Pupil Pa If there is anythin	rliament put together. You should all be really proud of this achievement.
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Green Team



Green Team have continued to be superb ecoambassadors this half term!

The children ensure our school and the grounds are clean and tidy; they work collaboratively to pick up litter and remind their peers to be more 'green' within their classrooms.



Green Team members are looking to create a small sensory garden area within our school grounds and they hope to secure funding from Surrey Gardens Trust for the project to go ahead. An area of this kind will include a selection of carefully chosen plants, surfaces and objects, that will stimulate the senses and be a calming space which is accessible for all children.

The children are busy gathering wonderful ideas and discussing different options for this exciting project!



Tashni Wimalasuriya Our Maths Master!

Earlier this month, Tashi Wimalasuriya in Year 5 travelled to California to take part in the 2024 'Global Cup' International Abacus Mental Arithmetic Competition, a mental maths contest held by the United Abacus Arithmetic Association (UAAA). The UAAA aims to promote mental arithmetic education, helping children excel at mental arithmetic whilst enjoying the process of learning.

Here is what Tashni had to say about her experience:

"It all started when I became Champion in 2023, then I was promoted to the UAAA 2024 Global Cup in the USA, California. The day I found out, I was excited and nervous at the same time. They said there were over 30 countries and over 300 children.

A few months before the competition, they had arranged a meeting so we knew everything we needed to know. From that day forward, I have been practising as much as I could to achieve my goal, 1^{st} place. A few months passed and it was almost time. My friends said good luck on my last day.

Finally I had arrived. The day after I arrived, it was finally time. I checked in and sat in my place, anxiously waiting. 3,2,1 and...start! The tension was rising. 30 minutes later it was finally done. Two to three hours later it was the award ceremony. Everyone went up to the stage except for me. But then, I saw my name for second place and I walked up to the stage proudly. For the first time ever, England had won 2^{nd} place. I am so delighted!

We could not be prouder of Tashni's wonderful achievement. Well done Tashni!



Information from the School Office

Vacancies

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable person to join our team as a Breakfast and After School Club Playworker. Click on the link below to find out more:

Breakfast & After School Club Playworker Vacancy

School Uniform

The following items are available to purchase via Scopay and can be collected from the School Office the same day:

- Book bag
- Cardigans
- Jumpers
- PE sweatshirts
- PE joggers

Please check Scopay for available sizes.

For any other items, please visit/contact <u>A Sporting Choice in Hersham</u>

Absence

Please remember, if your child is unwell and needs to be kept at home, you must call the school to inform us each day they are absent by 8.55am. This is part of our safeguarding process and helps keeps our children safe. If we have not heard from a parent or carer regarding a child's absence we will follow our 'first day calling procedures', a copy of which can be found in the school office.

Key staff teams

Senior Leadership Team

Mrs Zelia Munnik	Interim Executive Headteacher
Miss E Daly	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs A Mettrick	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs L Atkinson	Assistant Headteacher

SENCO

SEN Team

Mrs A Mettrick

Safeguarding Team

Mrs L Atkinson	Designated DSL Lead
Mrs Z Munnick	DSL
Mrs A Mettrick	DSL
Miss E Daly	DSL

Safeguarding all of our children is the top priority at St Alban's. If you have any concerns about a child or a family, please reach out to our safeguarding team by either emailing <u>admin@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk</u>. <u>dsl@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk</u> or calling the school office on 020 8979 5893



Mrs L Atkinson Lead DSL & Acting Assistant Head



Mrs Z Munnik Executive Headteacher



Miss E Daly Deputy Head



Local support, clubs and news

Mental Health Support

We all know how important it is to look after our mental as well as our physical health, and if a situation at home reaches crisis point, there is help available 24 hours a day from the Mindworks Surrey team (formerly CAHMS). Please see the poster in the link, which gives details of their helpline for young people who are experiencing emotional or mental health crisis.







Free Courses for parents and carers

Surrey Family Learning offer FREE courses and workshops to help you create a better family life.

Do you want to help your child or teenager to improve their behaviour, development and learning?

Book onto one of our tailored courses today to begin supporting you and your family. Find more information at:



surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning

Courses available

- Parenting Help understand your children and teenagers' behaviour, anxiety and mental health.
- English as an Additional Language Support for you and your child with English and how education in England works.
- Maths Learn about methods used in schools today.
- Literacy Learn about how English is taught in schools today.

...or scan here

• **Cookery** Be inspired and cook healthy family dishes together.

0427P

FAMILY LEARNING

HARE START Surrey

HomeStart Surrey need your help!

HomeStart want all children to have the best start in life and support parents in a variety of ways, both of a practical and emotional level for the ultimate benefit of children.

They are looking for volunteers with parental experience to join them and help support local families. New courses are starting throughout Surrey in the Spring. Visit <u>https://homestartsurrey.org/being-a-volunteer</u> to find out more, contact your local Home-Start or email volunteers@homestartsurrey.org



Age 7-11 years

LEGO ROBOTICS HOLIDAY CAMP

- Build LEGO models and learn to program
- No programming experience necessary
- All LEGO ability levels welcome

Book online at: https://bookthatin.com/link/BBcamps



Mon 12th - Wed 14th Feb 2024 9:00 -12:00

BEY OND BLOCKS



Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, 39 Ewell Rd, Surbiton