



Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Back to School



Friday 4th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to 'Ss. Alban and Stephen Catholic Primary School.' How wonderful to begin our new academic year as one school. After several challenging months, we are so excited to welcome back our children and see their smiling faces. Their enthusiasm and energy was plain to see as they bounded back into the school grounds in the last two days.

We look forward to welcoming back all year groups by next Monday and our new Nursery children at a later date. Fr. Julian and Fr. Michael blessed our new school on the staff inset day on Wednesday 2nd September. It was a symbolic gesture to recognise the coming together of both schools and recognise this significant chapter in the life of Ss Alban and Stephen School.

I hope to meet many of you in the forthcoming weeks and months as our school community begins to reunite and reconnect. I know staff have been working incredibly hard to prepare for the return of the children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and hope that you will see and hear about many of the new and exciting things that have been happening in recent months as the two schools have joined. I hope this is a successful year for everyone, children, staff, parents and governors and that all members of our school community remain safe and well during this time.

Clare McFlynn

Executive Headteacher

Reception

This week, we were delighted to welcome some of our Reception children for their first day of school. The children were amazing and have grown up so much over the summer! They explored their new classrooms, which had been newly decorated, and met their new teachers and some of their new classmates.



The children read stories about starting school, played carpet name games and are getting to learn the new routines.

They also enjoyed their first school lunch in the Infant Hall and there were lots of empty plates!

We look forward to welcoming the remaining Reception children next week.





Prayer to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin
a new school year.

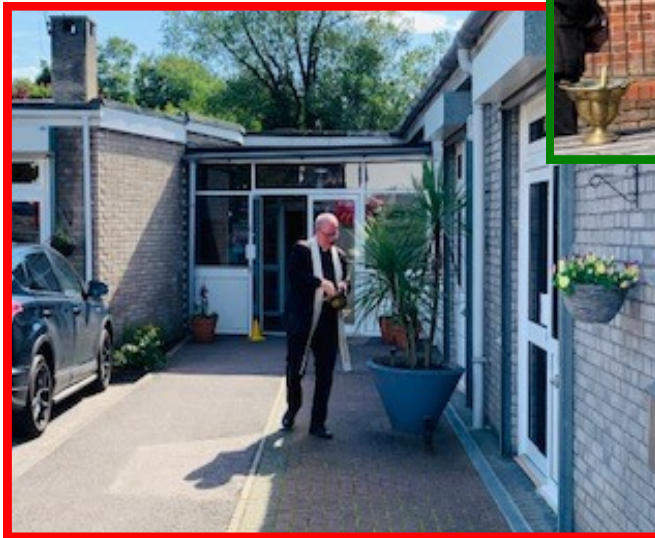
Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give the strength and grace
as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Blessing of Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Primary School

Fr. Julian and Fr. Michael blessed the new school and new and current members of staff on the staff inset day. Please visit the school website on <http://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/> to view a video of this special blessing.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

At this time of global pandemic, we are aware of how this has led to an increase in concerns around children's personal, social, emotional and intellectual development. Anxiety is the number one mental health issue affecting children of all ages. Yet to have feelings of worry and anxiety is perfectly natural.

In school, all of our children from Foundation Stage to Year 3 will have their very own 'Care Bear'. A Care Bear will be behind each child's locker door and if any child has any worries/concerns they can place their Care Bear on the teacher's table.

Mrs Murphy visited a Reception class today and one of the children explained in her own words why she had a Care Bear in her locker!

Alba said, "If you are feeling sad you give your Care Bear to the teacher and you can have a chat."



Also, our children in Year 3 to Year 6 have a worry box placed in their classroom so they can inform the teacher if they have any worries or concerns. Open "drop-in" sessions with the school SENDCo Mrs Murphy, will take place every Wednesday and Friday morning. Further details will follow.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

School will be closed on **Wednesday 21st October** for Parent / Teacher Consultations to take place throughout the day and into the evening. This will enable parents to meet with the class teacher safely to discuss their child's academic progress and wellbeing at school. These meetings are of vital importance after such a sustained period of time away from school. Further information will follow regarding the online booking system through School Gateway.

Midday Supervisor Post

Are you interested in developing your skills to help children? Do you enjoy leading learning and structured play? Please read on...We are looking to appoint a Midday Supervisor for the Upper Site. The role includes the supervision of children from Year 3 to 6 to help them develop their learning in a calm and inclusive environment. The hours would be from 11.45am - 1.15pm every day.

Are you ready to lead activities that support the children in their play and school life? If you are, then our very vibrant school community is the place for you!

Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Background checks and an enhanced DBS will be required.

The post would be part-time and on a temporary basis with the view to appoint permanently following a successful trial period. Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Background checks and an enhanced DBS will be required. Please contact the school directly at admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk or 01727866668.



SCHOOL LIBRARIAN POST

We have a very exciting opportunity available at Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Primary School. Following a complete refurbishment of the library on the lower site with the help of PTA funds, we would like to encourage applications for a school librarian to manage our brand new library.

It will be a fantastic opportunity to help develop and grow our wonderful library, organise author visits and most importantly help inspire a love of reading in our young children. If you have a passion for books, are organised and enthusiastic and would enjoy working with children, then please contact the school office for further details and an application form.

The post would be part-time and on a temporary basis with the view to appoint permanently following a successful trial period. Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Background checks and an enhanced DBS will be required. Please contact the school directly at admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk or 01727866668.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless.

Mrs Moore, Mrs Porter, and all the staff of SSAS.