



St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery Weekly Newsletter



Remote Learning!



Friday 8th January 2021



Prayer to Begin a New Year

Lord, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power
to be constantly present within us.

We pray you would make us strong and
courageous for the road ahead.

Give us ability beyond what we feel able,
let your gifts flow freely through us,
so that you would be honoured by our lives,
and others would be drawn to you.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all enjoyed a peaceful Christmas. I welcome you back to a New Term, a New Year and the hope that 2021 brings us the hope and light we wish for.

On Wednesday we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany and I wanted to share with you all a beautiful quote from a letter I received from the Interim Director of the Diocese.

The Feast of the Epiphany provides us with inspiration for the journey that lies ahead this term. We recall that the journey for the Magi was neither simple, straight forward or without significant challenges along the way. The deep faith the Magi demonstrated, continuing on their mission, despite all the distractions and difficulties they faced can also guide us through what lies ahead.

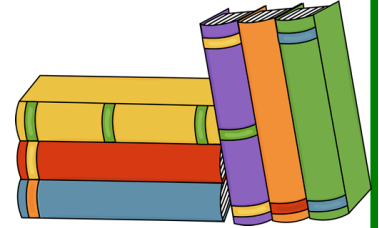
We may have felt that 2020 was a very difficult year but the beginning of 2021 still brings its challenges, and so I feel this quote is so apt. We too must strive for that deep faith of the Magi as we navigate the challenges that lie ahead in this New Year.

2021 has begun with a third lockdown for our children but we have a strong remote learning plan in place to support them. We are confident that we are providing the best possible education whilst doing all we can to help to keep everyone safe. As always, we will be continually reviewing and refining our provision to make sure that it meets the needs of the pupils. Your feedback is invaluable to us in this process so please do share your views of how things are going with class teachers and myself.

This is undoubtedly a difficult and worrying time for everyone in our school community. Please be assured that you are not alone and do reach out if there is any way that we can support you. It is important that we take care of ourselves and each other through simple acts of kindness and courtesy – bringing hope, love and compassion to those around us and to those we meet each day.

Stay safe and well,

Mrs Moore



A message from our new School Librarian

I have had the privilege of joining your school family as the new librarian. I started just before Christmas which was such a super time to start - with the school atmosphere full of Christmas energy, festive art displays and twinkly fairy lights!

This post is such an exciting opportunity both for myself and the school. I am really looking forward to starting the library from scratch so that it can be bespoke and tailored uniquely to your children. I am liaising with the teachers so that together we will create a wonderful new library that will excite and inspire the children. It will complement the children's topics whilst also provide opportunities for self-exploration.

Behind the scenes, I have been sorting all the amazing books that your school already had acquired over the years - there were some real treasures including a book signed by Helen Oxenbury! We are already arranging fabulous new furniture pieces and there is a team coming in to barcode all the books so that the children will be able to scan their books easily.

The current Covid situation restricting us to our homes can create amazing opportunities to enjoy stories together still. Books can be enjoyed together or by oneself or perhaps a Zoom call with grandparents reading to the children, magazines, photos, and charades. There are also amazing animation Apps that your children could use or use toys and objects around the house to create their own stories!

I can not wait for the year ahead when we will hopefully be able to accommodate (if not physically, then virtually) author and illustrator visits, celebration of literary events, book fairs, library blog and reading sessions with the children.

Happy Reading everyone!

Mrs McIntyre



Remote Learning Nursery

This week, Nursery have been looking at pattern, rhythm, the Feast of Epiphany and looking at the story the Colour Monster .



Remote Learning Reception

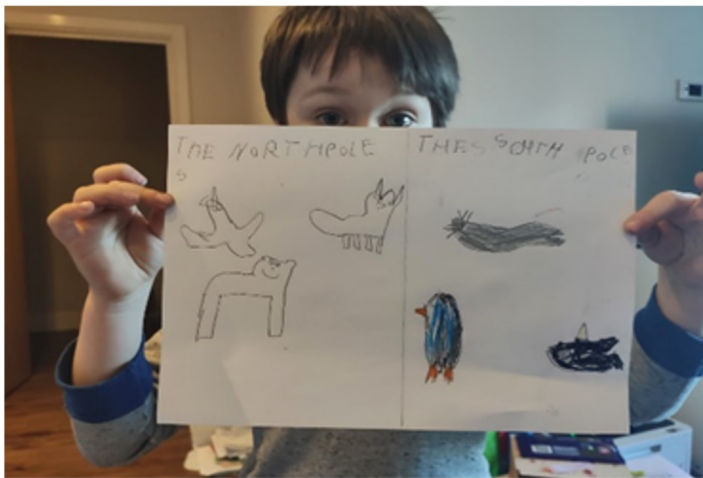
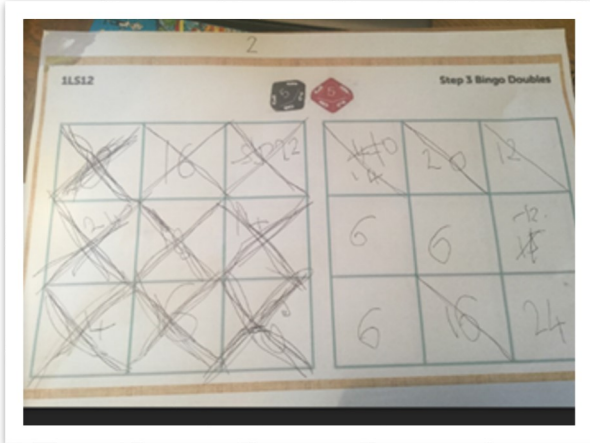


This week in Reception, we have been looking at the Goldilocks story, comparing sizes of objects and learning about the Feast of the Epiphany.



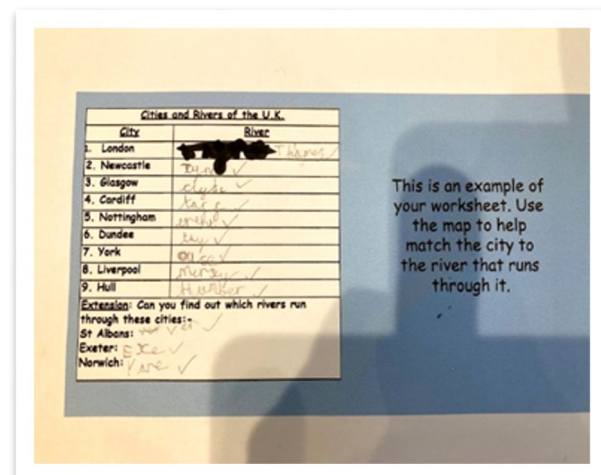
Remote Learning Year 1 & 2

The children in Year 1 have been enjoying Maths games and learned about 'Doubling Numbers'.



Class 1L and 1T have been enjoying Science learning about Animals in the North and South Pole. What a lovely drawing of a penguin!

Year 2 have been learning about cities and rivers in the UK. They now know the name of the river in St Albans too. Great Geography work!



This is an example of your worksheet. Use the map to help match the city to the river that runs through it.

Goodbye and Thank you Miss Gage

Many of you will know that Miss Gage was off on maternity leave last year. She has since contacted the school to say that she will not return to St Alban and St Stephen as naturally, she wants to spend this time with her young family.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Gage for all her hard work and commitment to the school over the last few years. She had a great impact on many of the children past and present and she will be sorely missed. We wish her and her family all the very best for the future.

Reception Application 2021

To apply for a Reception place, parents are requested to complete both the Hertfordshire online application form available at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/school-admissions-and-transport.aspx and our school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which is available from the School Office admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk.

Both applications need to be submitted before the closing date of 15 January 2021.

Nursery Application 2021

To apply for a place in our 2021-2022 Nursery class (for children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018) please contact the school office.

The closing date for applications is 26th February 2021.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless and stay safe.

Mrs Moore and all the staff of SSAS.