



# Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents & Carers,

It continues to be a very busy time for us all and, as the darkness comes earlier each day, the weeks are starting to feel longer. I know that we are all doing our best to support the children and provide them with the opportunities they need to grow, develop and learn.

As you are aware, the children have returned to school very well. Baseline assessments were completed in the first 4 weeks and teachers now have a clear idea of where there are gaps in learning. They have identified what needs to be taught next term to address this and ensure good progress towards meeting Age Related Expectations (ARE) in July 2021.

If your child needs to self-isolate for 14 days, teachers will be in touch to help and direct the learning to link with the classroom as much as possible and remote learning is always available using the learning platforms on the school website.

As the global pandemic continues, I am aware of how this contributes to concern around children's personal, social, emotional and intellectual development. The school continues to add links on the website to signpost resources and information, including details of people and services available to families.

We have implemented a range of interventions and strategies and will continue to do so in the forthcoming term:

- Weekly PSHE lessons using a scheme of work called Jigsaw. This is a unique, progressive and effective tool which aims to prepare children for life, helping them really know and value who they are and understand how they relate to other people in this ever-changing world.
- Open "drop-in" sessions for children with a familiar adult – children are confident in sharing concerns with familiar adults and using their 'care bears' and worry boxes when needed. I have also been regularly dropping into classrooms over the last few weeks and have had chats with children in all classes. One quote from a Year 6 child made me smile - "Mrs Murphy, you have known me all your life" - bless him! Children have settled well and any concerns or worries have been dealt with successfully.
- Open "drop-in" sessions for parents with myself, the SENDCO. These sessions are an important and vital opportunity to discuss any worries or concerns and have been invaluable in ensuring issues are dealt with quickly and successfully. I would welcome feedback from any parents who attended a session as working together is so important to the success and happiness of our children.
- Continued regular up to date advice and contact from outside consultants, eg Educational Psychologists, CAMHS.
- Teachers meeting with parents at consultation day to discuss catch-up tutoring, targeting specific children as identified within the classroom.

Adults are finding it hard to come to terms with the new "normal" – so how can you help your child understand how and why the coronavirus pandemic has up-ended our lives? Please find below a link to free, downloadable eBooks which may help you explain COVID-19 to your children.

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/best-childrens-books-about-coronavirus>

The key part of my role continues to be the coordination of provision for children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities and our more vulnerable pupils. You can contact me by emailing the school office or calling the school between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Whilst I may not always be available to take your call immediately, I will endeavor to return all messages promptly.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and well deserved happy half term break. Well done to all our children - keep up the fantastic work!

God bless you all.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Murphy  
SENDCO