



Learning and Growing with God by our Side

St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Welcome to Reception

SEPTEMBER 2026

Our School Prayer

Dear God,

Bless all the children and staff in our school.

Bless all our loving parents, our school community and parishioners.

Let us follow the shining examples of St Alban and St Stephen.

Help us to be the best that we can be and guide us as we stay connected to you and Jesus in all that we do.

As a school, we are learning and growing with God by our side.

Amen.



Our Values

Faith

Friendship

Determination

Respect

Unity

Our Golden Rules



We are gentle.

We are kind.

We listen.

We are honest.

We work hard.

We look after property
and our environment.

Our Senior Leadership Team



**Mrs Lavelle-
Murphy**
Executive
Headteacher



Ms Hackett
Head of
School



Mrs Smith
Assistant Head,
& SENDCo



Mrs Bates
Assistant
Headteacher

Reception Staff (Seedlings)



Mrs Ferrin
Class Teacher



Mrs J
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Walker
Teaching Assistant

Reception Staff (Blossom)



Ms Ractliffe
Class Teacher



Mrs Kennell
Teaching Assistant

Drop Off and Pick Up

The doors open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am.

There is a soft start to the day and when the children arrive they start their busy fingers activities to develop their fine motor control. Children arriving after 8.55 will be marked late.

Please help your child settle by allowing them to come in to the classroom independently.

School finishes at 3.05pm.



Lunches

Please discuss school lunches with your child and book their lunch choices in advance using Swift Kitchen.

Alternatively, your child can bring in their own packed lunch. No glass bottles, fizzy drinks or any food containing nuts are allowed.



Uniform

Please ensure all items of clothing are CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.



Red Polo
T-Shirt.

Black Jogging
Bottoms,
Shorts or
Leggings .



SSAS Red
Jumper.

Black Velcro
School Shoes (no
trainers).



STEVENSONS

EST. 1925

SCHOOL UNIFORM OUTFITTERS

Accessories

Please ensure all items are CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.



Black, Green or
Red Hair Ties.

Red Sunhat
(hot weather).



Water Bottle
(water only).



Red SSAS
School Bag



Our Typical School Routine

School Begins: 8:45 – 8:55am

Start of the day activity

Registration/Phonics

Focused activity/Child-Initiated Learning

Whole Class Learning

Lunch Time: 11:45-1pm

Whole Class Learning

Focused activity/Child-Initiated Learning

Story Time

Home Time: 3.05pm



EYFS Areas of Learning

Prime Areas			
Communication and Language	Personal, Social and Emotional Development		Physical Development
• Listening, Attention and Understanding • Speaking	• Self-Regulation • Managing Self • Building Relationships		• Gross Motor Skills • Fine Motor Skills
Specific Areas			
Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the World	Expressive Arts & Design
• Comprehension • Word Reading • Writing	• Number • Numerical Patterns	• Past and Present • People, Culture and Communities • The Natural World	• Creating with Materials • Being Imaginative and Expressive

Phonics

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

As a school, we follow the 'Little Wandle' Phonics scheme.

Little Wandle provides a completely consistent approach to planning, resources and delivery across the school.

How do we teach children Phonics?

- We teach Phonics everyday.
- The children learn four new sounds each week and have a regular review lesson to consolidate this learning.
- Phonics is learnt in 'Phases' as a whole class.





Our Curriculum



RE

Autumn

Creation and Covenant
Prophecy and Promise

Spring

Galilee to Jerusalem
Desert to Garden

Summer

To the ends of the Earth
Dialogue and Encounter

Topic Overview

Autumn 1	Ourselves
Autumn 2	Let's Celebrate!
Spring 1	Poles Apart
Spring 2	Amazing Animals
Summer 1	Into The Woods
Summer 2	Let's Set Sail!

Reception Baseline

- **Formal baseline** – Statutory Assessment implemented at the beginning of the year. This will take place in the 1st half of the Autumn 1 term.
- **Informal baseline** – Meaningful adult interactions and observations of children's learning and development through play.
- The first few weeks of Reception are focused on supporting the children with their transition and nurturing their well-being and involvement.

Foundation Stage Profile

- The **EYFS Profile** summarises and describes children's attainment at the end of Reception.
- At the end of the year, the teachers will judge if a child has met the Early Learning Goals.
- These are then used to provide Year 1 teachers with important information about your child's learning.
- Parents will receive information throughout the year through reports and parent consultations to discuss your child's progress and any gaps we have identified.

Home Learning

- Each week, we will keep you up to date with Phonics by sending home, the graphemes we have learnt. You can support your child by recapping at home.
- Towards the end of Autumn 1, once children have completed the baseline assessments, you will start to receive weekly reading books, which may be wordless books to start with.

Ways You Can Help

- Find learning in everyday opportunities (i.e. tidying up, spotting numbers and letters in the environment, cooking etc..).
- Talk to your child about their learning (using Tapestry and Weekly Blogs).
- Be a role model and always reinforce our school golden rules at home.
- Bedtime stories, share reading books, retell stories and discuss characters, storylines, feelings etc...
- Develop gross motor skills – sports games, sweeping, climbing, washing the car etc...
- Develop hand strength – using play dough, squeezing sponges, mashing potatoes etc...
- Develop fine motor skills – practise cutting, LEGO, threading etc...
- Make observations about the world around you, seasonal changes, current affairs etc...

Help Your Child To Be Independent

- **Clothing** – getting changed, practising zips, buttons, shoes and socks.
- **Toileting** - routine of flushing, hand-washing.
- **Recognising** and **writing** their name.
- **Tidying Up** – returning items where they belong, putting lids on pens, pushing chairs in etc...
- **Peeling fruit** – Oranges, bananas.

Parental Engagement

- **Fortnightly Blogs** on our school website about the weekly learning.
- Regular observations shared on Tapestry.
- Phonics Workshops.
- Share your child's **Wow Moments and Show & Tell** on Tapestry (i.e. learning to ride a bike, swimming certificates, going on holiday).
- Open evenings and classroom visits during the year.
- Parent helpers for reading, events, trips etc...

Smartphone-Free School

A significant number of St Albans primary schools have agreed to support the 'Smartphone-Free Childhood initiative'. <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/> <https://delaysmartphones.org.uk/>

By “smartphones”, we refer to phones that are able to access the internet, as opposed to old-fashioned mobile phones that can only text and make phone calls.

After consulting with staff, parents and governors, we have agreed that at SSAS primary-aged pupils should not have smartphones.

Primary-aged pupils should not be on any social media including WhatsApp, Snapchat, Instagram or TikTok (all have a 13+ age-restriction).

What does this mean for you?

No SAS child will be able to bring a smartphone to school when they walk to and from school. Year 5 and 6 children who walk to and from school by themselves can, if parents wish, bring a tracker or an old-fashioned phone which does not connect to the internet eg a Nokia.

All phones must be handed into the class teacher at the start of the day and will be returned at the end of the day.

We ask parents not to buy their child a smartphone while in primary school. We ask that parents do not allow their child to access age-inappropriate social media and join WhatsApp groups.

Parents on school grounds are not allowed to use mobile phones unless outside the school gates. This is a safeguarding issue. It also sends a message to our children that they are more important than our phones and sets a positive example.

Year 5 and 6 parents will need to complete the walk home from school Google form.

PTA

Saturday 26th September - Autumn Fair 1-4pm

Friday 2nd October - Reception and KS1 Disco Straight from school-4:45pm

Any Questions?

If you have any further questions, email the office: admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk

We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Lots of information can be found on the website on Learning/Year-group Information and in the parent and pupil handbook.

<https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/Parents/Letters-and-Forms/>

Watch out for the Friday Diary Dates sent out with information for the week ahead.

The news page on our website also has weekly blogs with school news.

A decorative border at the top of the page featuring a variety of autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red, some with green still visible. The leaves are scattered and overlap, creating a natural, seasonal frame.

Thank you for your support.

We hope that you found this information useful. We are very much looking forward to getting to know your families and children this year.

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