



Learning and Growing with God by our Side



St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Welcome to Year 1

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 Mission Statement



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 S. Lavelle
Murphy
Executive
Headteacher



Ms T. Hackett
Head of School



Mrs C. Smith
Senior Assistant
Headteacher &
SENDCO



Mrs J. Bates
Assistant
Headteacher

Year 1 Team



Mrs Cooper
Oak
Class Teacher
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday



Mrs Caramelo
Oak
Class Teacher
Thursday,
Friday



Miss Igoe
Oak
Teaching
Assistant



Mrs Joseph
Elm
Class
Teacher



**Mrs
Realmuto**
Elm
Teaching
Assistant



Mrs Walker
Elm
Teaching
Assistant

Other Key Staff Members



Mr D. Byrne
Sports Coach



Mrs Z. Flatt
Music Specialist



Mrs Rees
Pastoral Mentor

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 SODA (Start of Day Activity) before lessons begin. Children arriving after 8.55 will be marked late.

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

School finishes at 3.15 (KS1).

Other adults who regularly pick up your child should be added to Arbor. For one-off occasions, please inform the teacher or email into the office with the adult's name, their role, and whether your child is expecting to be picked up by this person or not. Children in Nursery to Year 4 can only be picked up by an older sibling who is aged 14+ (Year 10+)- you must inform the Office of this in writing or by email.

Lunches

Parents need to choose their child's meal options in advance using the Stir Food App.

This ensures that parents help their child to choose a meal they know that they will like. It also ensures that your child will get the meal option that they want.

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.

- Black school shoes must be worn – no trainers.
- Long hair must be tied up with simple black, green or red hair ties.
- Jewellery – children may only wear simple stud earrings and a silent watch or Fitbit (no smartwatches allowed). No necklaces, bracelets, charity bands etc are allowed.
- A warm, waterproof coat must be provided as children play outside.
- Red caps must be worn on sunny days and during trips.
- Summer uniform can be worn for the first Autumn half term.

PE Kit

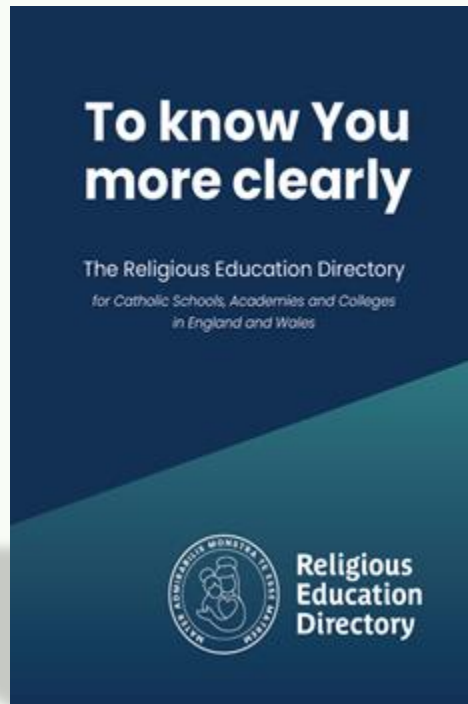
Ensure all items of clothing are CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

- Our PE days are Tuesday and Thursday. Children should wear their P.E. kit to school on P.E. days.
- Plain white T shirt (with or without school logos but no other logos)
- Red shorts/ black leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- Red hoodie with NO DRAWSTRING (plain red or with school logo but no other logos) or school jumper/ cardigan
- Plain trainers with non-marking soles
- No jewellery should be worn.

Ask in the Office if you want to purchase cheap, pre-loved uniform- we have a wide selection.

R.E.: *To Know You More Clearly* **Curriculum**

Written and approved by the Catholic Education Service



Autumn Term

Branch 1 – Creation & Covenant

Branch 2 – Prophecy & Promise

Spring Term

Branch 3 – Galilee to Jerusalem

Branch 4 – Desert to Garden

Summer Term

Branch 5 – To the Ends of the Earth

Branch 6 – Dialogue and Encounter





Reading in Year 1

- Each week the children will take part in up to three reading practice sessions. On **Wednesday**, the children will be sent home with the book they have been practising.
- Each reading practice session has a clear focus, so that the demands of the session do not overload the children's working memory.
- One book will be sent home each week: Little Wandle reading book (which are fully decodable) and a Library book (which is for sharing with an adult to promote the love of reading).
- **Our current Library day is every Thursday!**
- **Please could you return any library books outstanding from Reception.**

Writing in Year 1

- In Year 1, the children will be writing every day, in a range of different contexts.
- We still encourage mark making and developing a love for writing through child-initiated learning.
- Our handwriting scheme has changed and we will now be following Letter-join. We will have 3 focused handwriting sessions each week.

Phonics

- Little Wandle provides a completely consistent approach to planning, resources and delivery

How do we teach children phonics?

- We teach a phonics lesson every day.
- The children learn new sounds each week and have a regular review lessons to consolidate this learning.
- Phonics is learnt in 'phases' as a whole class.
- KS1 Phonics workshop – Wednesday 14th October at 9am



Year 1 PSC

- The Phonics Screening Test is a statutory requirement from the government which will be conducted in the summer term.
- All children in year 1 take the test. In addition, any child in year 2 who did not reach the required level when they took the test in year 1 will take the test again in year 2.
- The phonics screening check will take place one to one with a teacher.
- It comprises of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher. The list is a combination of both real and made up, non-words which rely purely on using phonics to decode. The non-words are words that have been made up and will be shown with a picture of an imaginary creature to help them.

Maths in Year 1

- Daily Maths lesson
- In Year 1, we explore Number, Measurement, Geometry (Shapes), Position and Direction.
- We aim to develop a strong visual awareness of number and use a lot of practical equipment in the classroom.

Science in Year 1

Autumn 1: Senses

Autumn 2: Common and wild garden plants and materials

Spring 1: Seasons and materials

Spring 2: Animals and life processes

Summer 1: Seasons and animals

Summer 2: Famous scientists and inventors



Other curriculum topics in Year

- Computing
- Topic (History and Geography)
- Art and DT
- PSHE
- Music
- P.E



Home Learning

- Every week, our Phonics learning for the week will be added to Google Classroom for you to practise with your child at home.
- Children should read for 5-10 minutes each evening. Please remember to make a comment in their reading record book.
- Optional home learning tasks (creative and linked to school learning)
- Termly oracy task:
 - Autumn- Poem
 - Spring & Summer- Speech

More information available on the Home Learning Policy

How you can help at home

- Always encourage and discuss the School's Golden Rules.
- Reading daily with your child. Find opportunities to read spontaneously.
- Help your child grow in independence (i.e. getting changed, resolving issues, recognising when they need the toilet and remembering to wash their hands after using the toilet).
- Model and teach life skills (i.e. using money, maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle, gardening, solving problems)
- Playing lots of games and encouraging turn taking and counting.
- Encouraging an interest of the Topics covered in school and completing home learning tasks to a high quality.



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 SAS primary-aged pupils should not have smartphones.

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



What does this mean for you?

From September 2025, no SAS child will be able to bring a smartphone to school when they walk to and from school. From September 2024, only our current Year 6 pupils who walk to and from school by themselves will be allowed to bring smartphones (as this was already allowed for them last year).

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.

Parent Helpers



The support of parents is of enormous benefit to the children and we warmly welcome it.

We already have a team of fantastic parent volunteers who read with children and help in the library every week. If you are interested in becoming a regular volunteer, please notify the office and further information will follow.

(Please note that in line with Hertfordshire County Council, all parents working in school will be asked to apply for police clearance.)

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.



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.