



Learning and Growing with God by our Side



St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Welcome to Year 2

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 S. Lavelle
Murphy
Executive
Headteacher



Ms T. Hackett
Head of School



Mrs C. Smith
Senior Assistant
Headteacher &
SENDCO



Mrs J. Bates
Assistant
Headteacher

Year 2 Staff



Mrs Tennant
Cherry Class
teacher and
Phase Lead



Mrs Pham
Willow Class
teacher



Mrs Ruff



Mrs Walker



Miss Gibson

Mr Hinder

Other Key Staff Members

P.E (KS1 and 2) and Music (KS1 and 2) will be covered by specialist teachers.



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 3.05 (Reception) 3.15 (KS1) 3.20 (KS2)

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

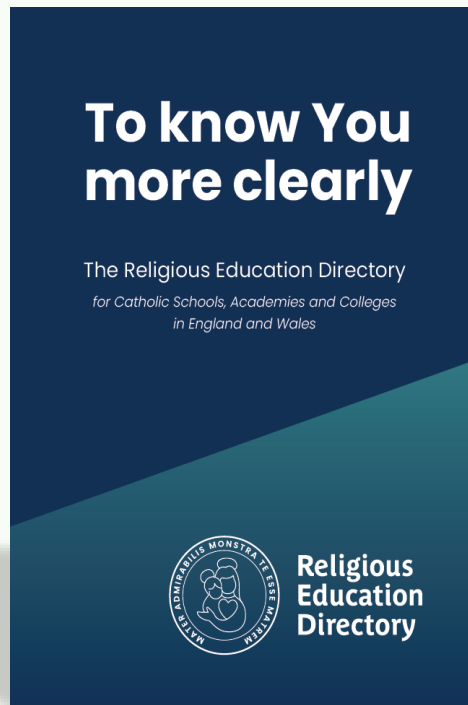
Ensure all items of clothing are CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

- Our PE days are Thursday and Friday. 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 2

- Our school uses a phonics scheme called Little Wandle.
- Our reading scheme books are closely matched to your child's phonics ability. The reading book that each child brings home should be read with 95% accuracy which is why it is very important that the book matches their phonics ability.
- After Phase 5 Set 5, children will move onto coloured.
- Please make sure that books are brought into school every day..
- Children will start to bring home two books: one is a home reading book and one is a reading practice book.
- The new reading practise book will be given out each Wednesday.
- Children will have the opportunity to visit our school library once every week.



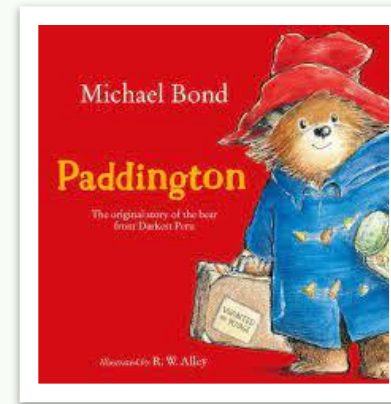
Writing in Year 2

- In year 2, children should learn a range of English language and literature skills, such as reading common exception words, recognising suffixes, spelling homophones and writing simple narrative stories. The main areas that are addressed in the year 2 English classroom include:

Transcription (Handwriting – using ‘Letterjoin’)

Writing Composition

Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation and Vocabulary



- The stimulus for writing comes from our whole class texts;

Paddington Bear and Katie in London by James Mayhew will be our focus books this half term.

Maths in Year 2

➤ Daily Maths lesson/Maths fluency 3 x a week

➤ In Year 2, we cover:

- Place Value (up to 100)
- Addition and subtraction facts (up to 20)
- Multiplication and Division (including the 2, 3 and 5 times tables)
- Properties of shape – common 2D and 3D shapes
- Simple Fractions
- Measurement – Length and Height
- Position and Direction
- Time – up to quarter to and quarter past
- Money
- Problem Solving basics (both number problems and word problems)



➤ We aim to develop a strong visual awareness of number and so use a lot of practical equipment in the classroom such as a ten-frame until children can subitise these numbers fluently.

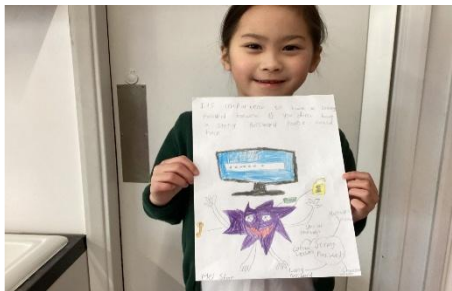
Science in Year 2

<u>Healthy Me</u>	<u>Material Monster</u>	<u>Squash, Bend, Twist and Stretch</u>	<u>Our Local environment</u> Livings things, habitats and food chains	<u>Young Gardeners</u> Plants	<u>Little MasterChef</u>
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Computing in Year 2

<u>Computing systems and networks 1:</u>	<u>Programming 1:</u>	<u>Computing systems and networks 2:</u>	<u>Programming 2:</u>	<u>Creating Media:</u>	<u>Data Handling:</u>
What is a computer? Exploring what a computer is by identifying how inputs and outputs work and how computers are used in the wider world to design their own computerised invention. E Safety	Algorithms and Debugging - Developing an understanding of; what algorithms are, how to program them and how they can be developed to be more efficient, introduction of loops.	Word Processing – Developing touch typing skills, learning keyboard shortcuts and simple editing tools. E Safety	Scratch Junior – Exploring what 'blocks' do' by carrying out an informative cycle of predict > test > review. Programming a familiar story and make a musical instrument.	Stop Motion - Learning how to create simple animations from storyboarding creative ideas. E Safety	International Space Station Learning how data is collected, used and displayed and the scientific learning of the conditions needed for plants and humans, to survive.



History and Geography in Year 2

<u>London today</u> Big Question: Why is London an important city?	<u>London in the past: The Great Fire and Gunpowder Plot</u> Big Question: Why and how do we remember these events?	<u>The World and Me:</u> <u>Asia (Hong Kong)</u> Big Question: How is Hong Kong different to the place that I live?	<u>Castles</u> Big Question: Why don't people live in castles anymore?	<u>Oceans</u> Big Question: Why do we need to protect our oceans?	<u>Local history of our school:</u> <u>The Orchid King of St Albans</u> Big question: What happened here in the past and how do we know?
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Assessment in Year 2

- There will not be any formal SATs assessments in Year 2.
- Instead, we will conduct informal assessments to inform any areas for further teaching.
- Children who did not pass the Year 1 phonics screening will complete a phonics check again in June.

Home Learning

- Daily Reading
- Online maths and spellings practice
- Homework is set on Tuesday and must be completed/ returned by the following Monday. (Children will complete a spelling test on a Wednesday in school).
- 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

- Ensuring your child maintains a high level of attendance and is punctual
- Maths games - (dice games, card games, online e.g. Topmarks)
- Practise Times Table Rockstars / Numbots.
- Play My Maths games
- Practise times tables and mental maths regularly
- Cooking and baking
- Telling the time
- Problem solving at the shops
- Reading for pleasure



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.

Parent Helpers



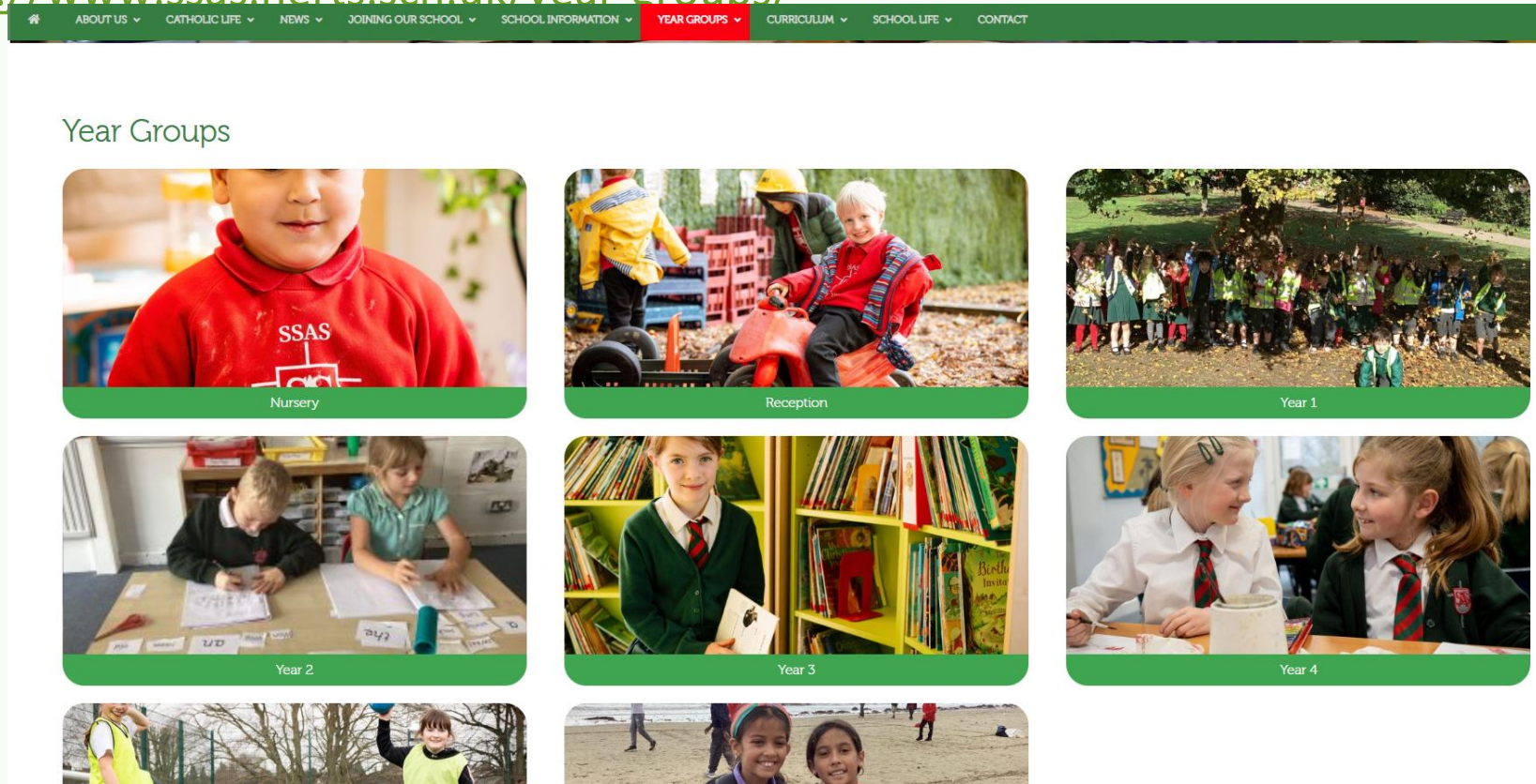
The support of parents is of enormous benefit to the children and we warmly welcome it.

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.)

Link to class pages- recommended reading lists.

<https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/year-groups/>



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.