

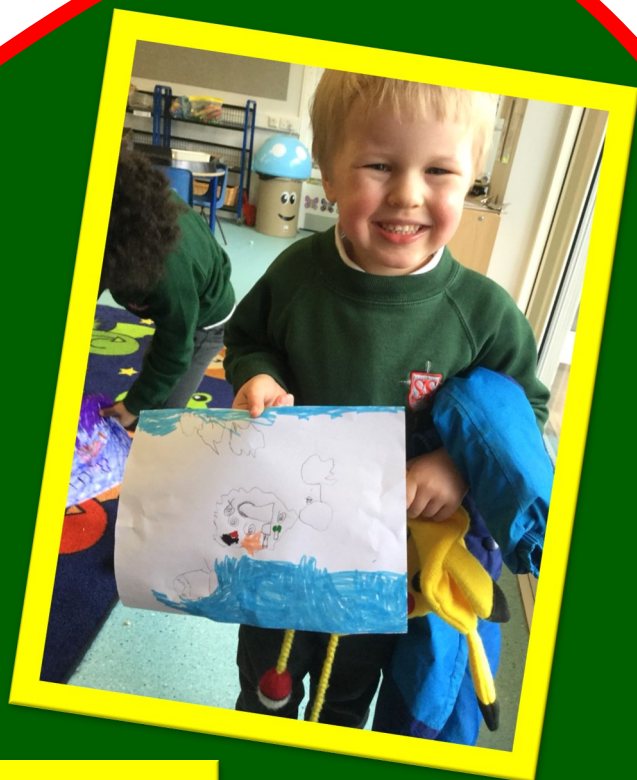


St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Weekly Newsletter



Welcome Back!



Friday 26th February 2021

The Transfiguration of Christ

Dear Lord,
I pray that we become transfigured in
Your presence.

I pray that when people see us,
they see You.

Awesome Creator, I thank You for
letting Your people witness the
transfiguration of Your Son - Jesus
Christ
Amen





Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families are well and keeping safe. We are delighted that school will open for all pupils on Monday 8th March 2021.

In order to keep everyone safe we will continue to maintain the social distancing and hygiene measures that were in place before Christmas.

Attendance

The Government, in its guidance, states that circumstances have changed and it is now vital for all children to return to school to minimise the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education. This means that from Monday 8th March, the usual rules on school attendance will apply: It is imperative that we work together to secure regular school attendance from the very start as this will be essential in helping children catch up on missed learning, make progress and promote their wellbeing and wider development.

School Uniform

All children should return in full school uniform. PE kits should be brought in on a Monday and taken home on a Friday to be washed.

Additional Resources

- o Children are allowed to bring in a labelled water bottle and a book bag or school bag.
- o Children in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 are provided with a break time fruit snack. In Key Stage 2, all children are encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit or a cereal bar for break time. Nut based products are not permitted due to allergies in school.
- o Children may ride bicycles to school under their parent's supervision. Children in Year 6 may ride bicycles to school unaccompanied provided they have passed their cycling proficiency. All cyclists should wear helmets and dismount their bicycles once on school premises. Bicycles should be locked in the bicycle shelter in the back playground. The child should dismount the bike or the scooter when entering the school grounds.
- o Children in Year 3 to Year 6 are allowed to bring a small pencil case to school.
- o All medication must be handed in to the school office and the healthcare plan attached on the first day. Healthcare plans are available from the school office.

Preventative Measures

We are required to retain the protective measures for children and staff. Schools have been asked to continue to minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day to reduce the risk of transmission. We will continue to have in place the following preventative procedures:

- o Lessons will be taught in all classes about the importance of good hygiene and hand washing.
- o Individuals or someone in their household who have coronavirus symptoms will not attend school.
- o Cleaning hands thoroughly and more often than usual, using the sanitiser stations positioned around the school.
- o Good respiratory hygiene, promoting 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Tissues will be available in every classroom to support this routine.
- o Minimising contact between individuals by maintaining consistent groups and older children maintaining social distancing, wherever possible.
- o Breaks, lunchtimes and assemblies will also be staggered to support social distancing requirements.
- o Current advice is that primary school children do not need to wear face coverings in school. You may wish for your child to wear a face covering.
- o Staff in school are now able to use Lateral Flow Devices twice a week to test for COVID-19. If these are positive, or there are any other positive cases of COVID-19 in your child's class, we will inform you immediately and ask you to keep your child at home to isolate.

Measures for arriving at and leaving school

Children will continue to enter the school grounds through different entrances. Please follow these instructions carefully so that we avoid parents and children congregating in any drop-off zone. To reduce contact between parents and carers, we are limiting drop off and collection to one parent or carer per family.

Please wear a face covering/mask when dropping off and collecting every day. All staff at the gates will also continue to wear a face covering/mask. Please bear in mind that some adults are unable to wear face coverings due to a range of medical conditions, which may not be apparent.

Lower Site	Drop Off	Collection
Nursery	Drop off from 8.45am. Enter the Lower Site through an entrance on the Alban Way. Please approach the gate from the Dellfield/Camp Road bridge side of the	Collection at 3.15pm from the gate on the Alban Way.
Reception	Drop off from 8.45am - 9.00am at the Camp Road gate.	Collection at 3.05pm from the Camp Road gate.

Lower Site	Drop Off	Collection
Year 1	Drop off from 8.45am - 9.00am at the Year 1 entrance. Access from Vanda Crescent and parallel to the Alban Way.	Collection at 3.10pm from the Year 1 entrance.
Year 2	Drop off from 8.45am - 9.00am at the main entrance on Vanda Crescent.	Collection at 3.10pm from the main entrance on Vanda Crescent.

Upper Site	Drop Off	Collection
Year 3	Drop off from 8.45am - 9.00am at the Alban Way gate at the Upper Site.	Collection at 3.20pm at Alban Way gate at the Upper Site. (One parent may come on site but must wait at the bottom part of the playground).
Year 4	Drop off from 8.45am - 9.00am at the Camp Road gate at the Upper Site.	Collection at 3.20pm at the Camp Road gate at the Upper Site. (One parent may come on site but must wait on the grass near the gate).
Year 5	Drop off from 8.45am - 9.00am at the main entrance gate on Cecil Road.	Collection at 3.20pm at the main entrance gate on Cecil Road. (One parent may come on site but must wait in the top court near the gate).
Year 6	Drop off from 8.45am - 9.00am at the main entrance gate on Cecil Road.	Collection at 3.20pm at the main entrance gate on Cecil Road. (One parent may come on site but must wait in the top court near the gate).

Catering

The kitchen will be fully open providing a hot meal for all children in Reception and Key Stage 1. In Key Stage 2, parents who would like their child to have a school meal should pre-order as normal. We will continue to use the same colour coded menu from Hertfordshire Catering Limited (HCL).

Breakfast and After School Club

Breakfast and Afterschool club provision will start from Monday 8th March. Please book on as usual.

Settling Back In and 'Catching-up'

I know that many of you will be concerned about the impact of this lockdown on your child's learning. On the return to school we will be quickly re-establishing school routines and expectations as well as working on identifying children who have found lockdown particularly difficult emotionally or academically. We will conduct assessments and plan appropriate teaching to support children to make progress. We are fortunate to have additional staff to support with small group teaching and this will be used where we feel children will benefit from it. A full academic report will be sent out on Friday 19th March so teachers can inform you about how your child is doing. As always, if you have any particular concerns, please contact your child's class teacher.

Conclusion

It will be very helpful for us to know in advance of any children who may experience difficulties in returning, or who may have had difficult situations to deal with over lockdown (such as bereavement, whether COVID-related or otherwise). Please inform us of these situations, or of any difficulties you feel your child may have upon returning to school. We have planned lots of wellbeing, nurturing and emotional-based learning sessions to welcome the children back and will support them with any understandable concerns. I hope this answers any questions you may have about the return to school. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further clarification at: admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk.

We are all so looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday 8th March!

God bless and take care, Mrs Moore.

Catholic Life of the School

New Mission Statement and Values

We have a very exciting time ahead for our school and we need the whole school community to help. As we amalgamated to form a new primary in September and appointed Mrs Moore as the Headteacher in January, we felt now is the perfect time to review our school mission statement to celebrate this time in the school's history.

To write our new missions statement, we will involve all stakeholders— pupils, parents, staff and governors to create a statement and some values that truly represent our Catholic school as we begin this new era.

On Wednesday 3rd March, I will send home some information about how you can play a very important role in this process. Please talk through the work with your child. Then on Wednesday 10th March, when all the children have returned, we will spend a day in school sharing our ideas and working on our new mission statement. More information will follow next week.

God Bless.

Mrs Porter—R.E Faculty Lead



Lenten Activities— Friday 5th March

From Friday 5th March, before the children return to school, we will be running an art competition for each class.

To give you time to prepare and maybe get resources over the weekend, the children will make the following:

EYFS and Reception – Design and make your own Easter hat.

KS1 – Design and make a wonderful Easter garden.

KS2 – Create liturgical artwork about the Easter story. Any medium—paints, pastels, clay, collage etc . More information will follow in a flyer next week !

The children can bring their pieces with them when they return on Monday 8th March, but don't worry if they haven't completed it by then, the **DEADLINE IS FRIDAY 19TH MARCH.**

Charity Begins at Home!

Over the half term, a support bubble of Mia and Orla McMenamin and Gabriel and Enid Dobson decided to set up a stall on their doorstep to raise money for charity. They baked a variety of cakes, made their own lemonade and put together glitter perfume jars. They all worked really hard to prepare and ran it for 3 days, putting flyers up and arranging delivery for those who couldn't collect. All the while being conscious and respectful of social distancing.

They raised a huge **£140.00** for charity and have decided to split the total between the school's chosen charity for Lent - Catholic Children's Society and the other half for West Herts Hospitals Charity. This was entirely their own initiative and we are so proud of them for the effort they put in. Thank you so much children what a fantastic achievement! Charity truly does begin at home!!

**DON'T FORGET, YOU CAN DONATE TO OUR LENTEN APPEAL THROUGH
SCHOOL GATEWAY**



World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 4th March 2021

We would love the children to get involved by dressing up as their favourite book character on the day.

They will be able to show their costume and talk about their character at registration.

Please do not feel that you need to order a new outfit. It is amazing what can be made from an old T-shirt - and the children love making their own costumes!

On the day, the children will be able to choose from an exciting range of book-based activities that the teachers have been busy planning for them.

World Book Day is a great, fun way to celebrate the joy of books and reading.

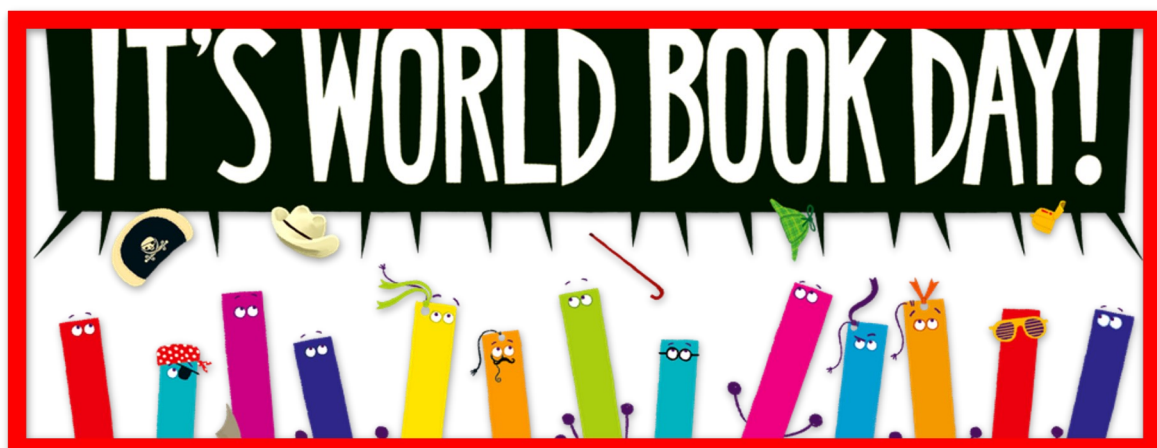
We would also like to invite you to take part in a whole school bedtime read, if possible. This involves the whole school community reading a book at 7:00 pm on Thursday.

It is a way to unite us all through the pleasure of reading. Parents can read to children or children to their parents.

It may even be an opportunity for grandparents to read to their grandchildren over Zoom!

We are looking forward to an amazing day!

From the English Faculty.



Wellbeing Workshops

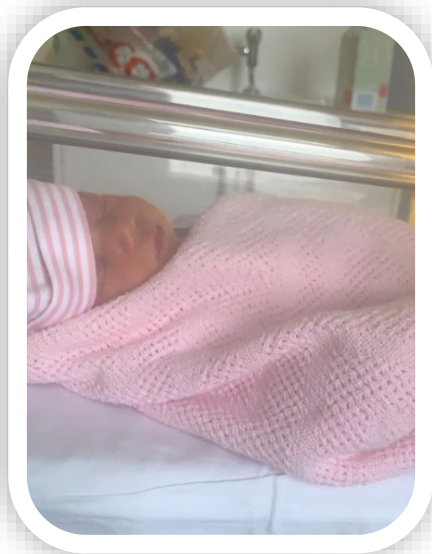
The children's personal, social and emotional wellbeing underpins and affects every area of learning. In order to ensure we are meeting all the children's needs both academically and emotionally, we would like to offer drop in sessions. This will provide you with the opportunity to discuss with school any worries or concerns you may have regarding your child's mental health and emotional wellbeing. I will be available on Wednesday and Friday mornings until 12 o'clock at the school's Upper Site. Please email the school office if you would like to book a session.

Kind regards, Mrs Murphy.

A huge congratulations to Mr & Mrs Grossi, Chanel and Christian who welcomed a new addition to their family on Saturday 13th February.

Say hello to baby Francesca!

We wish the Grossi family many special times together and look forward to meeting Francesca soon.



Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless and stay safe.

Mrs Moore and all the staff of SSAS.