

St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic
Primary School
Weekly Newsletter

Back to School



Friday 3rd September 2021

Prayer to Begin a School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help
as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence
in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting
opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and
new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic
with my studies and courage to accept new oppor-
tunities. Help me to be attentive to my teachers
and let me experience Your presence in my new
friends. Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new term! We hope that you have managed to enjoy some rest and relaxation time with your family during the Summer holidays and are now ready for another school year. For some of you, this may be your first year as part of the St. Alban & St. Stephen family and we hope that you will be made to feel very welcome by all members of our school community.

After several challenging months, we are so excited to welcome back our children and see their smiling faces. Their enthusiasm and energy was plain to see as they bounded back into the school grounds in the last two days. I hope to meet many of you in the forthcoming weeks and months as our school community begins to reunite and reconnect.

You will no doubt be aware of some of the relaxations to the Coronavirus restrictions. These are itemised under the headings below. However please be aware that should the school experience an outbreak of Coronavirus, we may be advised by Public Health to revert back to our previous way of operating for a period of time. We hope that this is not something we will have to do but we ask for your patience and understanding if this situation does arise.

Accessing the school

We are pleased to be able to permit parents back on to our playgrounds once more. We ask that you still make every effort to respect each other by maintaining some social distance. This will help to keep our staff, pupils, parents and carers safe, and reduce the risk of virus transmission.

When parents and carers are attending indoor events in larger groups, we ask that you still wear a face covering unless you are exempt.

Where parents and carers have children in different year groups, older siblings will be permitted to walk through the playgrounds to get to the youngest child's collection point, to meet their parent.

Face Coverings

Face coverings will no longer be worn in school except where adults who do not normally come into contact with each other inside the building are unable to socially distance. This means that for any big gathering of parents, such as welcome meetings, we would advise that face coverings are worn.

Although we do not encourage the wearing of face coverings for pupils, we recognise that there are some pupils for whom wearing a face mask is still a necessity and we are happy to facilitate this.

Face coverings should still be worn by adults and over 12s when using public transport.

Bubbles

The Government's new guidelines mean that pupils do not have to be taught in bubbles and can now freely mix again for assemblies, lunches and break times.

However, we must be mindful that should the school experience an outbreak of Coronavirus amongst pupils and/or staff, bubbles may have to be temporarily reinstated, on the advice of Public Health, to minimise any further spread of the virus.

Positive Coronavirus Tests

If a pupil or staff member tests positive for Coronavirus on a lateral flow test, they must take a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR test is negative and they are symptom free they may attend school once more.

If the PCR test is positive then they must not attend school and will need to isolate for 10 days.

Other pupils and staff members **will no longer be expected to isolate** if they have been in close contact with a positive case if they are:

Under 18 years old

Double vaccinated

Part of a clinical trial related to Covid-19

Exempt from isolation due to medical reasons

And not experiencing symptoms. However, all adults and pupils over 5 years old are advised to do a test to ensure that they have not been infected.

Pupils who develop symptoms during the school day

As before, pupils will be taken to our Covid room and supervised by a staff member wearing PPE, until the pupil is collected. Parents and Carers will be contacted and are expected to collect their child straight away and arrange for a PCR test as soon as possible.

If the PCR test is negative it may be that the pupil is suffering from something else and they do not need to isolate. They may return to school once they are well enough to do so. If they receive a positive PCR test result then they must isolate for 10 days.

Siblings and other household members do not need to isolate if under 18 years, double vaccinated, part of a clinical trial or exempt due to medical reasons. However siblings and household members are advised to take a PCR test and if positive, they must isolate for 10 days.

Communication

At all times we ask that you inform the school straight away if your child or a member of your household tests develops symptoms or tests positive for Coronavirus. Pupils should not be sent into school if they develop symptoms or test positive for Coronavirus.

We will send a 'Warn and Inform' letter to you if a pupil or staff member tests positive for Coronavirus and advise you of any steps you may need to take. At all times we follow the advice of Public Health and the safety and well-being of our school community is of paramount importance.

Hand Hygiene

Pupils will continue to sanitise/ wash their hands frequently throughout the day and will continue to practise the 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it' approach to coughs and sneezes and tissues.

I hope this is a successful year for everyone, children, staff, parents and governors and that all members of our school community remain safe and well during this time.

Mrs Moore
Headteacher

Reception

This week, we were delighted to welcome some of our Reception children for their first day of school. The children were amazing and have grown up so much over the summer! They explored their new classrooms, and met their new teachers and some of their new classmates. We look forward to welcoming the remaining Reception children next week.





**SCHOOL CROSSING
PATROL WANTED!**



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE
WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING
THE SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL FOR**

**ST ALBANS AND ST STEPHEN
ST ALBANS**

**THE PAY IS £9.00 PER HOUR
(excluding enhancements)**

JOB SHARE CONSIDERED

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR WOULD LIKE
FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
THE ACTIVE AND SAFER TRAVEL TEAM ON 01992 556816/
01992 556803**

Hertfordshire County Council, Active and Safer Travel Team,

County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN.

Tel: 01992 556816



Midday Supervisor Post

Are you interested in developing your skills to help children? Do you enjoy leading learning and structured play? Please read on...We are looking to appoint a Midday Supervisor for the Upper Site. The role includes the supervision of children from Year 3 to 6 to help them develop their learning in a calm and inclusive environment. The hours would be from 11.45am - 1.15pm every day.

Are you ready to lead activities that support the children in their play and school life? If you are, then our very vibrant school community is the place for you!

The post would be part-time and on a temporary basis with the view to appoint permanently following a successful trial period. St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Background checks and an enhanced DBS will be required. Please contact the school directly at admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk or 01727866668.



SEND is everybody's business.



We are launching a new special educational needs and disabilities strategy.

You are invited to find out more about the SEND Strategy, and services and support available in your area at one of our 'SEND is Everybody's Business' events across Hertfordshire.

7 September
Birchwood Community
Centre, Hatfield

16 September
The Priory, Ware

22 September
Niland Conference
Centre, Bushey

1 October
Stevenage Football club,
Stevenage

10am - 2pm
No booking,
just drop in

More details on
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer



Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless.

Mrs Moore and all the staff of SSAS.