



# St. Alban and St. Stephen Catholic

## Primary School

### Weekly Newsletter



Children in Need 2021



Friday 19th November 2021

Loving God  
Help us to be generous  
Help us to be kind  
Help us to be creative  
Help us to be loving  
So that Children in Need are  
helped today and every day.

Amen



### Covid Outbreak Update

Dear Parents or Carers,

I do hope you are all safe and well. The health and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and families remains our highest priority. Thank you for your support in managing this during the current Covid outbreak.

Unfortunately despite the best efforts of the whole school community our outbreak case numbers continue to rise at St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School. Therefore, Public Health Hertfordshire have advised us to implement an additional measure from **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**. A new sibling policy will be introduced for children to stay at home when a sibling they live with tests positive for COVID-19.

This is in line with updated guidance from the Public Health team of Hertfordshire County Council for schools in an outbreak situation. We will continue with the following measures below until **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021**. These will be reviewed again with Public Health Hertfordshire to see if they are still necessary after this date.

#### Sibling Isolation

- Children are now advised to stay at home when a sibling they live with tests positive for COVID-19.
- All siblings who live in the same house as the positive case should get a PCR test from the third day following the initial positive PCR. If this comes back as negative and the siblings feel well, those siblings can return to their education setting.
- If any sibling develops symptoms, they should isolate immediately and take another PCR test. If any sibling tests positive, they should isolate immediately.

#### Face Coverings

- Face coverings for visitors and staff in corridors and communal areas, including staffrooms (where close contact cannot be avoided).
- Reintroduction of wearing face coverings on school grounds at drop off and collection. To reduce contact between parents and carers, we are limiting drop off and collection to one parent or carer per family.

#### Preventative Measures

We have been asked 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:
- Lessons will be taught in all classes about the importance of good hygiene .
- Cleaning hands thoroughly and more often than usual, using the sanitiser stations positioned around the school.
- Good respiratory hygiene, promoting 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Tissues will be available in every classroom to support this routine.
- Enhanced cleaning schedules, including the regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, classroom based resources and outdoor equipment.
- Minimising contact between individuals by maintaining consistent groups and older children maintaining social distancing, wherever possible.
- Reintroduction of year group bubbles.

#### **Reduction in interaction / close contact situations**

- Re-introduction of space at the front of the class to enable staff to maintain distance from students when appropriate.
- Layouts and capacities for shared spaces such as offices, meeting rooms, staff room etc. will be reviewed to limit numbers.
- Face to face meetings to be restricted to those which are essential.

#### **Enrichment Clubs**

- 1:1 Music tuition can begin again from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November in a social distanced manner.
- There will be no Enrichment Clubs. We are aware of the importance of these activities in helping to keep our children happy and healthy. Every year group has two PE lessons each week and we also use our wonderful outside area as much as possible to aid teaching and learning. We are eager to reopen the enrichment clubs as soon as possible with approval from Public Health.

#### **Breakfast and Afterschool Club**

Breakfast and Afterschool club provision will continue as usual but please only use this service if absolutely necessary.

### General COVID information

#### Symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether you or your child's symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If you are concerned about your child's health or the health of anyone else in your household please seek advice from your GP, use NHS 111 online <https://111.nhs.uk/> or call NHS 111.

#### **There are things you can do to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19:**

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get to your destination
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We thank you for your continued support in helping to keep the community of St. Alban & St. Stephen safe and well.

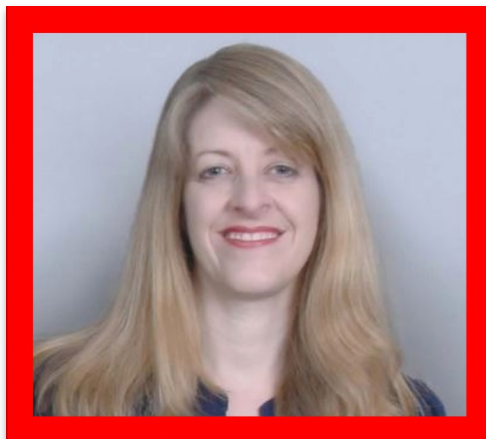
We wish those affected by coronavirus a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Moore

Headteacher

# Introducing our new Assistant Headteacher



My name is Tess Hackett and I am very excited about joining St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Primary School as Assistant Headteacher. I live in St Albans and have often admired your lovely school as I have been walking or cycling along the Alban Way. Originally I am from Wales, but I have taught for many years in London and Hertfordshire. I am currently a School Improvement Lead for six local primary schools, but the best parts of my week are always the days when I am in class teaching my favourite subject, English, and sharing my passion for reading and writing with the children. In my spare time, I love to spend time with my family, read books (of course!), play the piano and help out at my local church. I am really looking forward to joining your school community and meeting you all in January.

## Reception & Nursery Admissions

### St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

The application process for Reception & Nursery admissions in 2022-23 is now open. You are very welcome to join us at one of our Open Mornings on 8th and 15th December from 9.30-11.00 am to find out more information about our school.

Please note that the Open Morning on 24th November has been cancelled and moved to 8th December.

Please email [admin@ssaas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ssaas.herts.sch.uk) if you wish to book a place.  
Full details on how to apply can be found on our website [www.ssaas.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ssaas.herts.sch.uk).

Please note that only one parent is able to attend.



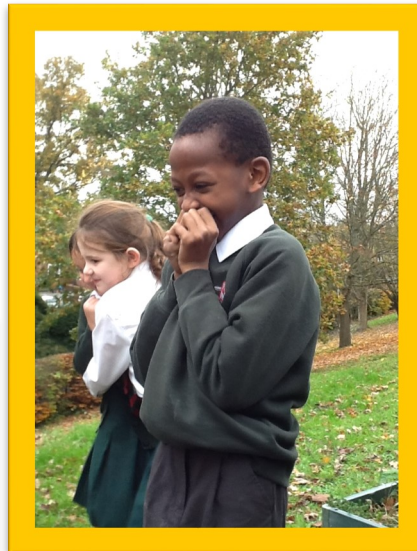
## Children in Need

Today across the school, the children came in wearing their spots and stripes and Pudsey ears. They also did some fun activities and had assemblies learning all about this wonderful event and all the great work they do to help those children less fortunate than ours. We have managed to raise an AMAZING £529 so far!!! Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity.



## News from Year 3

This half term Y3 have been looking at our Extreme Earth in Geography. We investigated the structure of the earth, as well as the structure of volcanoes. We used pieces of card to mimic the action of tectonic plates and to understand why volcanoes exist. However, the most exciting part was experiencing our own volcanic eruption - on a miniature scale of course! Fantastic learning and great behaviour was shown by all. Amazing work, Year 3!



## News from Year 4

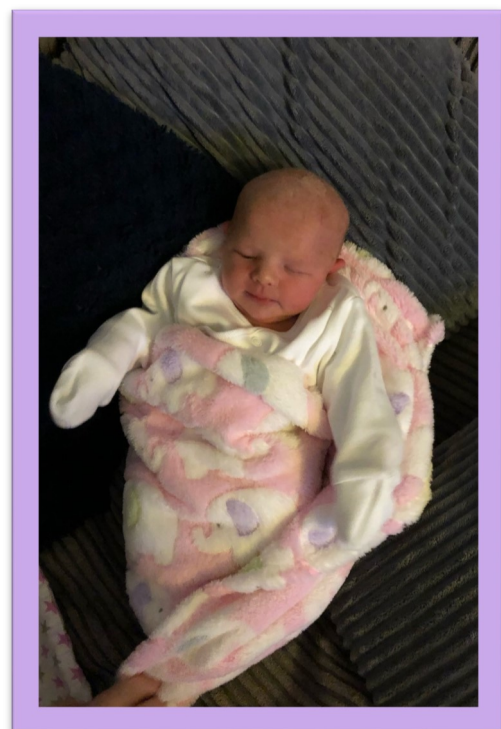
This week has been a very busy one, with the children working hard and showing off their skills. We have been inspired by the work of Louise Brown and her painting called Tropical Toucan. We practised a variety of skills to build up our art work including, blending, concentrating on perspective and form and creating texture; using various media such as colouring pencils, charcoal, pencil, chalk and oil pastels. The children were very proud of their final pieces and they have had many compliments from other members of staff viewing them.

We have been learning about states of matter and identifying the properties of solids, liquids or gases. The children created mind-maps to organise their ideas and then chose how to record their understanding of 'Particle Theory' - very grown up!



## Welcome to the World Baby Willow!

On the 17th of November at 02.35am Hunter Ryan's sister was welcomed and blessed into the world. She weighs 5lb 13oz and is doing very well. Hunter is being a great big brother. We wish all of the family lots of special memories, kisses and cuddles with their latest addition and we welcome little Willow into our St Alban & St Stephen Community.



Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless.

Mrs Moore, and all the staff of SSAS.