



St. Alban and St. Stephen Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter



Fun in Early Years



Friday 5th November 2021

The Sunday Gospel

The Widow's Mite

“For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”

Dear Lord,
Help us to know what a sacrifice is, no matter how big or small. Help us to appreciate when someone has done something for us. Let us be grateful for the actions of others towards us and help us to spread your love through acts of kindness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen





Dear Parents or Carers,

Covid Outbreak Update

Thank you all for your kind support over the past few weeks. These are difficult times, and as a community we are working from hour to hour in an ever changing situation. We cannot thank you enough for the sensible and caring attitude you are all showing towards each other and our school.

As you are aware, a Covid outbreak has been declared due to the number of positive cases in our school. The numbers have continued to increase over the half term break and this week. In line with the latest national guidance and as reviewed by the Public Health team of Hertfordshire County Council, we will continue with the following measures until **Friday 19th November 2021**. These will be reviewed again with Public Health Hertfordshire to see if they are still necessary after this date.

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 and hand washing.

- 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.

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

From 3rd November 2020 until Friday 19th November, there will be no Enrichment Clubs or Music lessons. We shall review the situation regularly and will reinstate the provision as soon as possible.

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/>

I would like to thank all our parents/carers, pupils and staff for their patience, cooperation and support during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Moore Headteacher

Welcome Fr Jonathan

We are delighted to say that we will be welcoming Fr Jonathan into our school each Monday to meet with the children . He will also take the opportunity to meet a few of the parents at the gate. I know that you will join me in welcoming him to the community of St Albans, and we are very much looking forward to continue forging these strong links with our parish. Below is a message from Fr Jonathan.

Hello from Fr Jonathan:

My name is Fr Jonathan Stogdon ; I am the new assistant priest at St Alban and St Stephen's Catholic Church.

It is a great joy to be here at St Albans.

Part of my mission as a priest is to serve our local Catholic schools, to pray for you and to visit each class, to help and to support our local school-church community.

I'm really looking forward to being part of our school team and getting to know this wonderful community.

As we get to know each other, I promise to keep you and your families in my daily prayers.

Please also pray for me, for all our priests, and that God will call more men to His Sacred Priesthood.

Please do say hello to me at the end of the school day or at Holy Mass on Sundays.

God bless,

Fr Jonathan

News from the Early Years

It was lovely to welcome the children back to school this week to start our new exciting new topic 'Night and Day'.

Bonfire Night

This week in Nursery and Reception, we have been learning all about Bonfire Night and Guy Fawkes in preparation for November 5th. The children have been getting creative, using a range of materials to make their own fireworks. One activity the children enjoyed doing was using a cut up toilet roll to paint a beautiful firework display. We also used chalk on black paper to make our own patterns to look like fireworks. In our outdoor area, some children were working together to collect the leaves, which were then piled onto their own bonfire.



Diwali

Also this week in the Early Years, the children have been learning about Diwali, which was celebrated on November 4th. The children learnt all about the significant events and symbols of Diwali and some children even made their own Rangoli patterns using coloured rice. We listened to some Diwali music and danced along. As a class, we also read 'The Story Of Rama and Sita' and re-enacted it using face masks! Some children attempted to draw some characters from the story and label them. The Nursery children enjoyed acting the story on the outdoor stage, adapting it into a fun musical!





We would like to say a HUGE thank you to all of you for your very generous donations for our harvest collections. All the items have been collected by St Albans Foodbank and by the Women's Refuge, both parties were delighted and extremely grateful. We managed to collect a total of about 40 carrier bags full of items. So once again, thank you for your generosity for these very worthwhile causes. Below are a few pictures of our school Chaplaincy team with just a few of the huge amount of items donated.



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 24th November and 15th December from 9.30-11.00 am to find out more information about our school.

Please email 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.ssas.herts.sch.uk.

Please note that only one parent is able to attend.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

We will hold our Parent Teacher Consultation appointments on **Wednesday 24th November** from 1.00pm – 7.00pm all being well in person, in a socially distanced manner. We feel that it is important that we offer parents and carers this opportunity to meet face to face with their child's class teacher.

As with previous Consultations, School will close at 1pm on that day.

The school booking system for these appointments will go live at 7pm on **Wednesday 10th November 2021**. These arrangements may be subject to change.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless.

Mrs Moore, and all the staff of SSAS.