



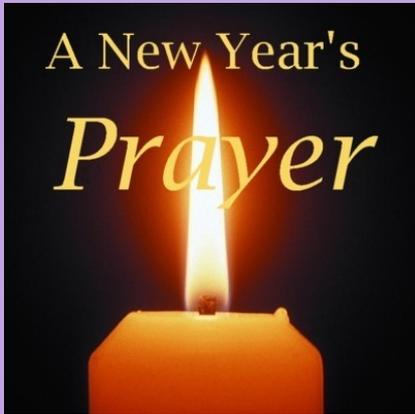
St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery Weekly Newsletter



Happy New Year!



Friday 7th January 2022



A New Year's
Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for a new year.

May everyone in our school family be willing to begin anew. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our true values . Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do.

Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Amen



Dear Parents and Carers,

We were very happy to see all the children back and looking so happy and refreshed. I know that a high proportion of our families had their Christmas impacted by COVID (either directly or indirectly) but I hope that you still managed to enjoy the Christmas period in some fashion.

You will be aware from the media that the government does not currently plan to impose further COVID19 restrictions and that they are committed to doing everything possible to keep the school open.

We agree that face-to-face teaching and learning is in the best interests of everyone and will continue to do our very best to provide this in the coming weeks. The government guidance for primary schools remains largely unchanged so we will continue to operate under our existing risk assessment and protective measures. We ask that all adults continue to wear face coverings (unless exempt) when dropping off and picking up children at our staggered start and finish times.

Please help us to keep our school open to all by following the national guidelines:

Keep your child at home if they are unwell and book a PCR test if they are experiencing any symptoms that could indicate that they have COVID-19.

The government continues to identify that the main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Please be aware that a growing number of studies, and the experience of members of our community, has identified that blocked or runny noses, sore throats, headaches, tiredness and diarrhoea can also be symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

The government advises that people who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible.

If the test is positive, they should follow the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Please don't hesitate to contact school if you have any questions or would like any advice - we will do our best to help.

We will continue to provide remote learning for children who are unable to come into school due to COVID-19 but are well enough to learn.

With your continued support and understanding, I am sure that we will be able to successfully navigate the next few weeks together.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Moore
Headteacher

Happy New Year!

It has been lovely to see the children coming back to school with smiling faces and a spring in their step!

After all of the fun and excitement of Christmas, everyone has settled back in beautifully.

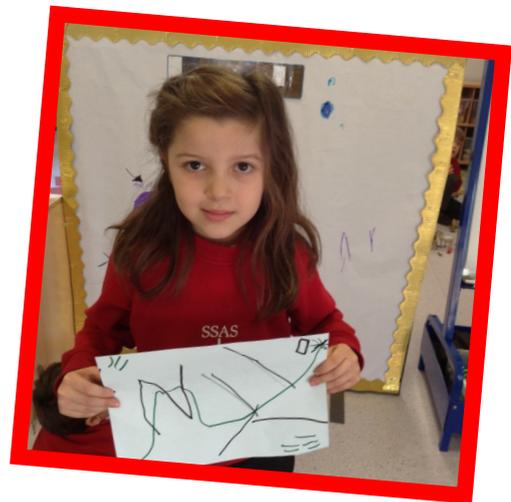
We asked some of the children how their first week back has been.



“I’m relieved that we’re back and that most of our classmates are well and studying with us in school again. I’ve missed doing P.E. and I’m also looking forward to art lessons this term.” Chiji

“I feel happy in school. All my friends are here. I have made a treasure map.”

Anna



“I’m glad to be back at school because I love learning new things. In history, one of my favourite subjects, we’re going to be learning about monarchs. I’m also pleased to see all my friends again.” Adelain





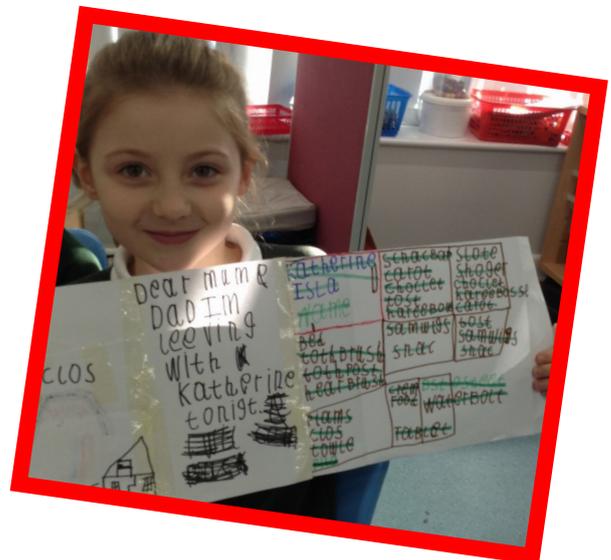
“I like it in school because you get to work. We both love maths. We’re learning about perpendicular lines. They do meet. Parallel lines do not meet.” Azariah and Ryan



“I like seeing my friends in school and playing fun little games. I like working and doing some learning.” Charlotte

“I like being back in school and learning about clock times like o’clock, half past, quarter past, quarter to.” Edward

“I liked coming back to school because I got to see my friends again and I really missed them. This week, I liked painting a picture with blue for the sky, brown for the ground and salt for the stars. I am making a plan for a playdate with my friends now and we will have lots of fun.”
Isla





“I liked coming back to school and seeing all my friends. I liked painting a picture of the three wise men with watercolour paint.” Robyn

“I’m happy to be back at school and playing with my friends. I’ve missed giving them riddles! This term, I can’t wait to start our computing lessons, as it’s my favourite subject.” Luki



“You can do building in school with your friends. I built this big city with my friend. Now I want to build a snowman.” Christopher



Well done to everyone for a great start to the year.
We can’t wait to see all the wonderful learning and growing
that you will do in 2022!