

*Growing and Learning with God by our Side*

Issue 22



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



Friday 4th February 2022

## Our Gospel Assembly

Last week in our assembly, we heard how Jesus preached in the Synagogue to the people of his hometown and at first they were amazed at what he said. However, this week we learnt that the crowd then became angry and turned against Jesus. Perhaps Jesus' message was too challenging, or maybe the people did not believe that someone they knew so well could be God's chosen one, the Messiah.

The people did not want to change their opinions. They were not good at learning and growing. Sometimes we need to learn and grow. This might mean 'turning over a new leaf' and making a fresh start.



### Reflect

Are there any parts of your life where you might need to 'turn over a new leaf' and make a fresh start? Perhaps there is someone who you would like to make a fresh start with by giving them a second chance.

### Pray

Dear God,

Please help us to keep learning and growing with you by our side.

Amen



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are almost at the half term break. Time is flying by and we are already seeing many signs of Spring around the grounds. We have had a challenging month with significant staff absences due to Covid but I must take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the staff for keeping the school running during this time.

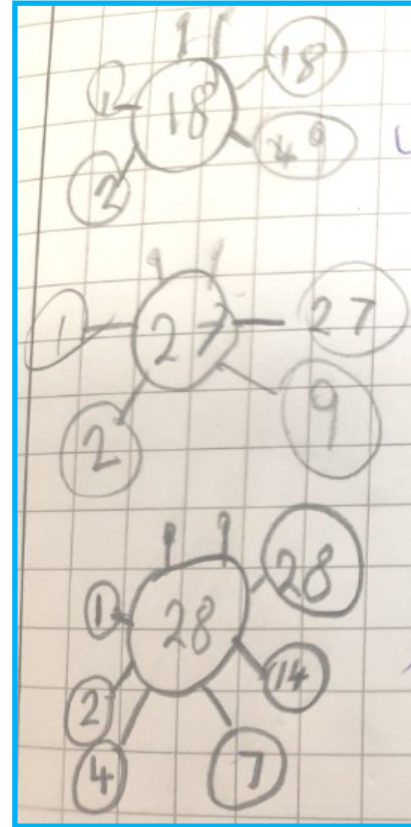
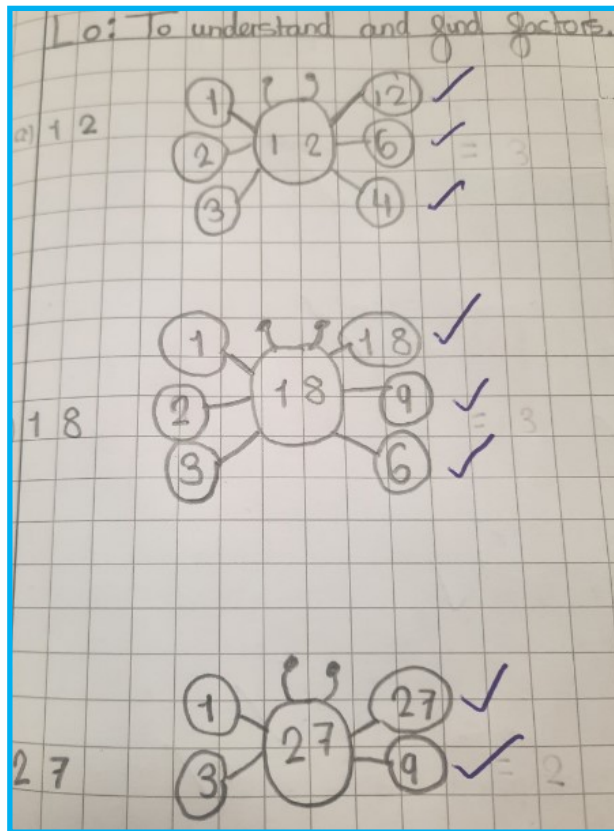
After the half term break, we have planned for year group assemblies and religious services to take place with parents joining us at these events. We look forward to welcoming you back into the school community. Dates will follow next week.

In the past few weeks, it has been wonderful having 'Hot Chocolate Friday' with pupils from all year groups who have earned an Excellent Effort Award. The children have shown how they are able to demonstrate our core values of Faith, Friendship, Determination, Respect and Unity. We place great importance on relationships and positive behaviour, encouraging respect, co-operation and consideration. What amazing pupils we have in our school!

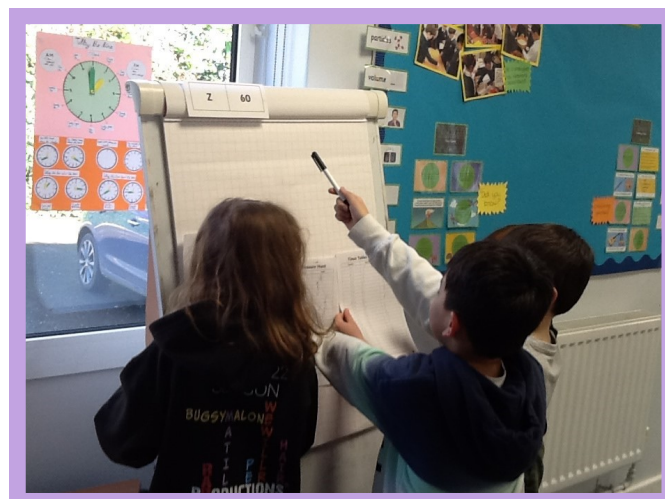
Have a wonderful restful weekend.

Mrs Moore  
Headteacher

## Marvellous Maths in Year 4



What a fabulous Maths week Year 4 have had! Earlier this week, we practised short division and learned how to identify factors using fun 'factor bugs'. These helped the children to work logically to find all possible factors of a given number. Look at their amazing work.





Today, we celebrated NSPCC Number Day with times tables Mathsopoly and a times tables Treasure Hunt. Later, we used our Chromebooks to practise our times table skills on Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS). Please encourage your children to compete in our inter-year tournament which will run for the next week.



Well done to all those children who are regularly practising their times tables at home. Not only is this important as Year 4s will take part in the national Multiplication Tables Check later this year, but it will help with their Maths learning and fluency throughout this year and beyond. Well-deserved congratulations to the Rock Legend, Marcos, who is currently at the top of our Year 4 TTRS leader board with an impressive time of 1:03 seconds per question.



## Back in Time with Year 3

In Year 3, we have been expanding our historical skills this half-term by looking across different centuries at British history. It has given us a good sense of chronology and we have been astonished at some comparisons between our lives and the lives of the Saxons, Normans and Tudors that lived here in St Albans. We had enormous fun re-enacting a Viking raid that happened in St Albans in 873AD in a game of tag (the Vikings are in the bibs!). We have also had fun creating some beautiful, regal portraits in the style of Hans Holbein.



## Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 7th February to Friday 11th



The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is **Growing Together**. Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

### **'Dress to Express' - Friday 11th February 2022**

All pupils and staff are encouraged to use clothing and colour to express themselves. Pupils can wear their favourite colour or choose a range of colours that express how they are feeling. Please see parent letter for more details.



Congratulations to Jack Mayhew who has been offered a place at the prestigious St. Albans Cathedral Choir starting after the Easter holidays. He did a fantastic audition on Saturday and sang 'Let's Go Fly a Kite' which he had learnt at school during the weekly Infant Choir Club.

Jack will be rehearsing several times a week and then sing in the Cathedral every Friday and Sunday. This is a huge commitment, but he loves to sing and is very excited by the opportunity.

Good luck Jack!



### Parent Consultations

Please be aware that school will be closed from 1pm on Thursday 24th March 2022 to hold parent / teacher consultations. This will enable us to meet face to face with parents to discuss your child's progress. Further details will follow.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless.

Mrs Moore and all the staff of SSAS.