

*Learning and Growing with God by our Side*

Issue 32



# St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

## Weekly Newsletter



Friday 6th May 2022



*As I kneel before you,  
As I bow my head in prayer,  
Take this day, make it yours  
and fill me with your love.*

*Ave Maria,  
Gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum,  
Benedicta tu.*

This month, Catholics all over the world remember and honour Mary, the mother of Jesus. They ask Mary to help them to grow closer to Jesus and remember her obedience and trust in God.

### **Go Forth**

How can we say, "Yes" to God, as Mary did? What graces and blessings can we ask God for that will help us to grow in faith?

## May Marian Celebration



Today, we welcomed parents and carers to share in a very special Marian celebration led by Year 1. The children led us in songs to honour Mary, and danced a beautiful liturgical dance to the hymn 'As I kneel before you'. We heard the story of Mary and how she trusted God even when he asked her to do something difficult.

Finally, all of the children laid beautiful blooms before the statue of Mary and crowned her with flowers.

Thank you to Fr. Andrew, who gave the homily, and well done to Year 1 who led our worship so prayerfully and respectfully.





## The Bear and the Piano in Year 3

Year 3 have been reading 'The Bear and The Piano' by David Litchfield this term. The children have brainstormed a word bank and thought about the emotions bear was feeling at different points in the story. This week we all got outside to continue our learning!

With their learning partners, 3T re-enacted the story, really learning each part of the plot by heart. 3A used the new playground markings to step and speak the story, remembering to use lots of time adverbials (one day/ after many years) to move the story along. Back in the classroom, the children were more than ready to retell the story in their English books, giving lots of thought to exciting adjectives!



## Year 3 Go Plant Hunting!

There was another opportunity to get outside this week as our Science work was focused on plant identification. Armed with a list of plants to find and a number of options to sort them into (tree/bush/herb/flowering plant/grass), Year 3 set off around the school and out onto the Alban Way. The children found all the plants on their lists and even added a few more besides. Their knowledge of plants and flowers impressed the adults!





# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

St Alban and St Stephen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery want to enrich the computing curriculum in our school!

Technological devices from the past and present will not only facilitate the children's imagination, but will give them a richer understanding of our changing world. If you have any of the following items gathering dust in your house, please consider donating them to our school!

			
Laptops	Telephones	Keyboards	Typewriters
			
Headphones	Watches	Alarm Clocks	CD Players
			
Torches	Record Player	Microphone	Camera
			
Household Equipment		Weighing Scales	Lamps
			
Toys with levers, gears, pulls, buttons and handles.	Wind-up Toys		



Please note that these donations do not need to be in working order!  
We will be collecting donations on both sites from May 16<sup>th</sup> – May 26<sup>th</sup>.



## Dates for your Diary

This term is going to be very busy and exciting. We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school for some of the celebrations and events below.

**19.05.22 SSAS Green Day**

**26.05.22 at 9.15 (Upper Hall) Year 4 family curriculum assembly.** Year 4 parents and carers are welcome to attend.

**10.06.22 at 9.15 (Upper Hall) Year 5 family curriculum assembly.** Year 5 parents and carers are welcome to attend.

**16.06.22 pm (SSAS Church) KS1 and KS2 SSAS Celebration Mass for the School Amalgamation**

**20.06.22 TBC (Lower Site) EYFS and Key Stage 1 Sports Day**

**24.06.22 TBC (Upper Site) Key Stage 2 Sports Day**

**01.07.22 at 9.15 (Lower Hall) Year 1 family curriculum assembly.** Year 1 parents and carers are welcome to attend.

### Other school events:

Please ask your child what they have been learning during these special events!

**16.05 – 26.05.22 SSAAS Sustainability fortnight– bunting art project**

**23.05.22 Young Voices Concert (KS2)**

### Jubilee Celebration Day Thursday 26th May

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, all children can come to school either dressed up as royalty, or wearing red, white and blue. We will be learning more about the Jubilee and taking part in lots of fun, royalty-themed activities.



School will then be closed for the extra Jubilee Bank Holiday on Friday 27th May.

## Open Evening at CoStA Swim Club



**Do you have a child in school year 2, 3 or 4 who loves to swim and is keen to progress?**

Did you know children can compete from the age of 9? At CoStA we offer fun filled sessions where we build upon the learn to swim programme and prepare our young swimmers for the exciting world of competitive swimming, in a supportive and nurturing environment.

In recent years, CoStA has been one of the most successful clubs in Hertfordshire competing in local, regional and national competitions. We train at various pools in central St Albans and have swimmers from the age of 6-20+

We currently have spaces in groups at the younger end of our club for swimmers who are currently at the equivalent standard of Swim England stage 5 or above. Sessions are 1-2 times per week.

Come and see what our swimmers do, how we train and participate in a FREE pre-club taster session.

**St Albans School Pool**

**Friday 13th May 2022**

**6.30pm - 7.30pm**

*For more information and to book your child a place on the FREE open evening taster session, please email [preclub@costaasc.org](mailto:preclub@costaasc.org)*



## **Reminder: Calling all Swimmers!**

**We would like to pass on an important message about the 2022  
St Albans District Primary Schools Swimming Champs –  
Friday 20th May, 2022**



The 2022 St Albans District Primary Schools Champs is used as a basis for selecting the St Albans District team to compete in the Herts Primary Schools Inter-District Swimming Championships on the Friday, 24th June, 2022.

**Entry to this gala is by the individual and not by the school.**

Any student from years 5 and 6 (for the 2021/2022 school year) attending a school within St Albans District can enter this gala. It includes 50m events for each of the 4 strokes. Swimmers should be competent to complete any event entered.

The gala will be held at the St Albans (Boys) School, warm-up at 6.30pm with start 7.00pm. A Swim England licence has been given, in which case those swimmers who swim for a club will be able use times in this gala for the national Swim England database.

St Albans District schools are automatically affiliated to ESSA (English Schools Swimming Association) and swimmers are covered for insurance purposes where the gala is a scheduled ESSA event (this Gala is a scheduled ESSA event)

**Deadline for entries is Tuesday 17th May, 2022**

Entry is to be made online at the StASSA website: [www.stassa.org.uk](http://www.stassa.org.uk). If you would like a one-page information sheet to print off which includes all details of the gala including the website link to enter please [click here](#).

The entry fee is £5 per swimmer (not per event) and can be paid online as part of the online entry on the StASSA website using debit/credit card (via Paypal) or by BACS (Bank Transfer).

As a note, St Albans District, in the Herts Primary Schools Champs, came 1st in 2019, which was the 6th win in 9 years. This gala and the Herts champs were not held in 2020 and 2021 due to covid.