

*Learning and Growing with God by our Side*



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



14th October 2022

## October– the Month of the Holy Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary. In school next week, our Prayer Leaders will be visiting all of the younger classes and teaching them how to pray the Rosary.

If you have Rosary beads at home, why not pray the Rosary together as a family?



**Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.**

## Letter from Mrs Smith



Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that we are in October already, September has been a remarkably busy month in school. It has been wonderful to see the children settle into their new classes and welcome our new Nursery and Reception children to our school. I am really enjoying my new role in school, as Assistant Head and SENDCO, getting to know all the children and visiting them in their classes. It has been lovely to get to meet lots of the new parents as well.

In many of the classes, I am known as the Year 6 teacher but as the children see more of me across the school, I am sure my title will change. There is such a buzz around the school as we invite parents in for curriculum assemblies, school masses and classes going swimming or on school trips. At the end of September, I accompanied the Year 6 classes on their residential trip to the Isle of Wight. We all had an amazing week and the children tried new experiences and worked together to build resilience and form new friendships. We were so proud of each and every one of them.

Across all year groups, teachers have been conducting assessments to make sure that they know where your children are and that the right knowledge and skills are taught so that they make good progress towards meeting Age Related Expectations. We can then identify any gaps in learning and do our best to support the children and provide them with the opportunities they need to grow, develop, and learn.

We are continuing to set up links on the website to signpost resources and information, including details of people and services available to families.

The school has implemented a range of interventions and strategies and will continue to do so in the forthcoming term:

## Letter from Mrs Smith

- ◆ Weekly PSHE lessons - school follows a scheme called Jigsaw. Jigsaw is a unique, spiral, progressive and effective scheme of work, which aims to prepare children/young people for life, helping them really know and value who they are and understand how they relate to other people in this ever-changing world.
- ◆ Children are confident in sharing concerns with familiar adults and using their 'care bears' and worry boxes when needed. They have settled well and if there have been any concerns or worries, I feel these have been dealt with successfully.
- ◆ Open "drop-in" coffee mornings with SENDCO for parents - the "drop-in" sessions are an important and vital opportunity to discuss any worries or concerns. These sessions have been invaluable and have allowed issues to be dealt with quickly and successfully and for parents to meet and chat to each other. I wish to invite you to the next coffee morning on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> November at 9 am on the lower site.
- ◆ Continued regular up to date advice and contact from outside consultants, for eg Educational Psychologists, CAMHS, Speech and Language Therapists, Vista
- ◆ Parent Consultations will be on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022, where teachers will have the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how your child has settled into their new class and discuss their progress so far.
- ◆ Parents meetings will be arranged separately to Parents Evening, where class teachers and I will discuss any targets that your child may be working on if they have an Individual Learning Plan.

The key part of my role continues to coordinate the provision of our children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities as well as our more vulnerable children. You can continue to contact me by emailing the school office or calling the school between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm. Whilst I may not always be available to take your call immediately, I will endeavor to return all messages promptly.

Well done to all our children, keep up the fantastic work. We all look forward to the half term break which is fast approaching.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Smith

## Year 2 go to London

This week, Year 2 went on a school trip to London. The children were so excited as we have been learning about London in our Geography topic and in our English stories 'Paddington' and 'Katie in London'. We all travelled together on the coach and we knew we were in London when we spotted all the big red double decker buses and black taxis. When we got there, we separated into our classes 2C and 2D and we began our tours of the Royal Mews and St James's Park.



We learned so much on our tour of the Royal Mews. We were greeted by a lovely lady called Sheila who taught us so much about the history of the royal family, what happens at a coronation and what the different flags represent at Buckingham Palace. After this we got to see the historic royal carriages that have been used by members of the royal family. We saw the Gold State coach which was used at Queen Elizabeth II coronation and we also got to see the Diamond Jubilee State Coach. They were beautiful!!



## Year 2 go to London

We got to see Buckingham Palace too, which was very exciting. Unfortunately, King Charles wasn't there!!



We also really enjoyed our walk around St James's Park and we were very lucky that the sun was shining. We spotted lots of different types of birds in the park and one class even saw a mother duck and her ducklings crossing the path. 2C walked all the way to Horse Guard Parade where we got to take our picture with the guard and horse. 2D were very lucky to see the changing of the guard earlier in the morning. They stood along 'The Mall' and watched the parade. It was great to see all the wonderful things we have learned about London in real life! We were all very tired getting back on the coach after our very busy day. Thank you to all the staff, parent helpers and parents for making this trip possible. It was a wonderful experience for Year 2!



## Musical Extravaganza at SSAS

On Tuesday this week, we were treated to a stunning musical performance by our School Orchestra and Choir. The Upper Hall was packed with families and friends, all of whom had waited eagerly since the postponement of the Summer Music Concert due to the heatwave.

It was wonderful to welcome back former pupils who are now in year 7 to join our musical celebration

The Orchestra began with a beautiful rendition of Beethoven's Ode to Joy, followed by Brudenell Waltz by D R Bellwood. The grand finale was a beautifully performed extract from Handel's Water Music.

The Choir sang a traditional Congolese folk song a capella called 'Si si si' followed by 'One and a million', with beautiful harmonies. They ended with the uplifting 'Sing from Your Heart'.

Our talented soloists were Evie and Emily on violin and Louis on the trumpet.

Well done to all of our amazing performers and a special thank you to Mrs Moore and Mrs Flatt who lead our Orchestra and Choir.



## Online Safety

Teaching children how to stay safe online is a vital part of our Computing and PSHE curriculum. However, the majority of children's online activity takes place while they are at home. In order to support parents and carers to keep their children safe in the digital world, we will be including regular online safety articles in our weekly newsletters in addition to our e-safety workshops which will be running next year. If there is a topic that you would like us to cover, please let us know. Our first article is from saferinternet.org.uk and discusses Roblox, a game which we know is popular with many of our pupils.

### What Parents Need to Know about Roblox

#### What is Roblox?

Roblox is a gaming platform where multiple players interact and play together online. The site has a collection of games aimed at 8-18 year olds, however players of all ages can use the site. Every game on Roblox is created by users, and there are a wide variety to choose from. These can vary from delivering pizzas, to roaming a kingdom as a medieval knight, to even starring in a fashion show. This variety is one of the reasons that Roblox is so popular with young people.

#### Key things for parents to be aware of

##### **1. Communication: how users can communicate with others**

Whilst the games are aimed at 8-18 year olds, there are no age restrictions. This means both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other on the platform.

All games are multiplayer and include a written chat feature, which is visible to players within each individual game. Users can also make and receive friend requests during gameplay and this means that they can chat to each other outside of the game.

##### **2. Content: what content is available that might not be suitable for children**

The Roblox Studio is a section where players use their imagination and skills to create their own games and share these with others. The ability to create and play games can be very appealing to young people. However, because content is user-generated it can mean that some games might not be appropriate for young children. For example, whilst the graphics are not very life like, some of the games feature weapons and blood. Recently, war-game simulations have appeared on the site which allowed players to fight each other in role as Russians or Ukrainians.

##### **3. Costs: How children might accidentally run up costs**

By creating games, users can earn Robux, the in-game currency. You can also buy Robux in the game. Players can spend money on items, such as membership to the Builders Club. Extra Robux can be purchased online.

Click here to read the full article: including tips for Parents:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-a-guide-for-parents>

## Dates for your Diary

- Saturday 15th October PTA Autumn Fair
- Wednesday 19th October St Teresa House Celebration. All children in St Teresa House (teachers will let children know) should wear at least one yellow item to school eg yellow hair ribbon, yellow scarf, yellow t-shirt or jumper.
- Thursday 20th October School closes early for Parent Consultations
- Friday 21st October School closed for INSET day.
- 24th-29th October School closed for half term
- Wednesday 2nd November 9am EYFS/KS1 Parents' Maths Workshop, Lower Hall
- Thursday 3rd November 9am KS2 Parents' Maths Workshop, Lower Hall
- Wednesday 9th November Open Morning for Prospective Parents
- Friday 18th November 9.15 Year 6 Family Assembly, Upper Hall  
Year 6 Parents and Carers are welcome to attend
- Friday 18th November Individual and Sibling Photographs
- Thursday 8th December 9.15 am Key Stage 1 Nativity assembly, Lower Hall- Year 1 and 2 parents are welcome to attend.
- Friday 9th December 9.15 am Key Stage 1 Grandparents' Carol Concert, Lower Hall - Year 1 and 2 Grandparents and older relatives are welcome to attend.
- Thursday 15th December 1.40 pm Key Stage 2 Carol Service at Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Church- all parents are welcome to attend.
- Friday 16th December Time TBC EYFS Nativity play, Lower Hall- Nursery & Reception parents are welcome to attend.

Please remember that the school day begins at **8.55 am**. The children will be able to enter their classrooms between 8.45 and 8.55.  
After this time, your child will be marked late.