

*Learning and Growing with God by our Side*



# St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

## Weekly Newsletter



21st October 2022

# One Million Children Praying the Rosary

**“In many countries, children in particular are suffering from the effects of war and persecution.”**

*Father Martin Barta, the Spiritual Assistant to CAN International Charity.*



This October, a prayer campaign is running to try and get ONE MILLION children over the world to pray the Rosary for unity and peace across the world. You can find out more about the campaign by watching the video here:

<https://acnuk.org/resource/onemillionchildrenprayingtherosary/>



On Tuesday 18th October, SSAS pupils joined with one million children across the world to pray the Rosary. Our Year 5 Prayer Leaders visited all of the younger classes and helped them to pray some of the important prayers in the Rosary: the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary and Glory Be. The Prayer Leaders also presented each class with a special set of Rosary beads for their prayer tables.



## SSAS Autumn Fair

On Saturday, our PTA held their annual Autumn Fair. As always, it was extremely well-attended by school families and visitors. The fair featured performances from the SSAS Choir and the SSAS Ukelele Band, while music was provided throughout the day by 'Two's Company'. The School Hall was packed with hungry people enjoying food cooked by our award-winning cook, Mrs Ertan, and the scrumptious cakes on the cake-stall also disappeared quickly! Luckily, the rain (mostly) held off so that everyone could enjoy the stalls and activities.

The Autumn Fair raised an incredible £5,000 which will be used to provide extra enrichment activities and resources for the children in our school.

A huge thank you to our wonderful and supportive PTA led by Mr Eaton. They all do so much for our school, and we are very grateful to them. Thank you also to all of the staff who gave up their weekend to help.

If you would like to find out more about the PTA, do look at their page on the website:

<https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/about-us/pta/>



## Happy St Teresa's Day!



On Wednesday, the children in St Teresa's House took part in a special celebration in honour of their patron saint, St Teresa of Calcutta (Kolkata). St Teresa's feast day was earlier this half term on September 5th.

All of the children wore a yellow item of clothing, as this is their house colour. We held a lovely service on our Lower Site, led by Father Andrew. The theme was, 'A Life of Devotion, Serving Others.' Father Andrew talked to us about how each time we help someone poor, hungry or homeless, it is as if we are doing it for Jesus. Ben, Chiara, Eva, George, Jayden and Lucas, our St Teresa Pupil Chaplains and Prayer Leaders retold the life of Mother Teresa and we sang 'The Servant King', reminding us how Jesus calls us to serve others.. Then, everyone received a yellow paper heart to write or draw their ideas about how they could be inspired by Mother Teresa. Finally, we sang, 'Shine', asking God to help us to shine and to send us out to help others.

The celebration ended with a special playtime and delicious yellow St Teresa biscuits, baked by Mrs Ertan and her team. It was wonderful to see all of the St Teresa's children from Reception to Year 6 playing together in the sunshine and enjoying their treats!



# The SSAS Big Draw



This October we are very excited to be celebrating The Big Draw Festival, an annual, worldwide celebration of drawing and visual literacy.

The first Big Draw started with a one-day activity in October 2000 – since then, it's grown into a worldwide, annual, and month-long celebration. Over 500,000 people participate every year now, and it's even broken two world records, one for the longest drawing in the world, and one for the greatest number of people simultaneously drawing!

2022 is the 22nd anniversary of the festival, and the theme is 'Come Back To Colour'. The aim of this theme is to bring back a feeling of vitality and love after a tough few years and to give people the chance to see the beauty in the world again through the power of art.

At SSAS, we have been celebrating the colour in the world around us in all its richness and diversity by creating self-portraits. It has been fantastic to see children from Nursery to Year 6 expressing themselves through art, observing their features in a mirror and reflecting what they perceive onto their paper, learning about face proportions and symmetry, taking inspiration from famous artists Victoria Topping and Julian Opie.

You'll be able to see some of our fantastic portraits on display on both sites shortly!



## Year 3 go back to the Stone Age!



On Wednesday 12th October, Year 3 had a fantastic Stone Age Day! It was an opportunity for the children to dress up and share some of the experiences of pre-historic hunter gatherers. The activities included: identifying prehistoric animals, creating their own Stonehenge using wooden blocks, exploring different informative displays and handling artefacts. Have a look at some of our photos from the day.



## Changing for P.E.

Dear Parents/Carers

Over the first few weeks of this term, we have been reviewing our changing for PE policy. Following discussions with parents, pupils and staff members, we will be running a trial period of a new policy.

After half term, all children taking part in PE during the school day should still come into school wearing full school uniform. However, they will be allowed to go home at the end of the day dressed in their school PE kit. This does not include Reception, who will be asked to attend school in their PE kit and will remain in their kit for the whole day.

All pupils should have a PE kit in school on the days that they have curriculum PE lessons. If your child attends an after-school sports club, they will also be expected to bring in their PE kit on the day that they have their club.

There are a number of benefits to running this trial. Firstly, cutting out the time taken to change back into school uniform at the end of PE lessons will ensure that we maximize our PE teaching time and therefore help to keep our children active for the recommended 60 minutes a day (180 minutes for EYFS). Secondly, parents will be able to check on a more regular basis that the PE kit fits appropriately and is clean, an issue which several parents have raised with us.

At St Alban & St Stephen, our young children (e.g. Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3) will change together with a supervising member of staff to help with any issues or problems in changing. Older children will get changed separately, using available appropriate spaces. Any supervising staff member is to follow the Department of Education guidance at all times.

Here is a reminder of the School PE Kit as specified on the website:

- ⇒ white T shirt with or without school logo
- ⇒ red shorts
- ⇒ dark green or black jogging bottoms (however, as some parents have already bought plain dark tracksuit bottoms, these will be accepted for this year)
- ⇒ (for colder weather) school jumper or dark green sweatshirt (no slogans)
- ⇒ trainers.

Yours faithfully,

H. Bowen

## 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. Our article this week is taken from <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/phones> and covers advice for parents and carers regarding their children's mobile phones.

### Top Tips for Parents



#### **Talk with your child about responsible use of their phone**

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their phone for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used, this could include things like the phone being charged outside their bedroom overnight.



#### **Discuss what to do if something upsetting or worrying happens**

Give them the strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using their device. This could be to lock the screen and tell an adult, to make a report to the platform they are using, or to block the user.



#### **Explore parental controls**

Take a look at the controls available both on the phone itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

### How to start a conversation with your child about using a phone safely:

#### **Why do you want to get a phone?**

Whilst deciding if it is time for your child to have their first phone can be a great opportunity to find out what your child expects to use their phone for. This could be for connecting with friends, playing games, for keeping in touch whilst out of the house or other reasons.

#### **What do you like about using your phone?**

You can ask your child about their favourite apps or games, what they like using their phone for, or ask them to show you how to play or use their favourite game or website.

#### **What would you do if something worrying or upsetting happened on your phone?**

You can ask them about the places they can go to find safety advice, find out what they know about privacy settings, and ask them how to report or block services they use.

#### **How can we do more online together?**

Ask your child about activities or games that you could enjoy as a family; this can be a great time to establish a family agreement to manage your families' time online.



# Rotary **YOUNG** PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION



**Calling all young photographers**

Express yourself by putting your photographer skills to the test in this annual Competition by submitting a digital photograph and a brief description of the picture. You may use a phone.

**The Theme for 2022/2022 is THE BEAUTY OF ARCHITECTURE**

Registration opens in October. Competition closes in January

To register and receive the entry form and information pack email: [rotaryinstalbans@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryinstalbans@gmail.com)

Please state your age as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 as there are three different age categories.



[@stalbanyoungphotographer](https://www.facebook.com/stalbansyoungphotographer)

Rotary 

[www.rotaryinstalbans.org.uk](http://www.rotaryinstalbans.org.uk)

## Music Making Day with St Albans Music School

Does your child play the violin, viola, cello or double bass?  
Join us at St Albans Music School for a fun-filled day of music making!



Develop your musical skills, play together in an ensemble, build confidence, make new friends, find your musical voice and generally have a great time! The day will culminate in a performance for parents at the school, helping us to develop our performing skills too.

All primary aged strings players are welcome to attend this wonderful event. All abilities and skill levels welcomed from beginners upwards.

Please note, this event takes place during school time at St Albans Music School - please obtain permission from your child's head teacher to attend the day.

St Albans Music School is based at Townsend School, High Oaks, St Albans AL3 6DR.

Places are limited and allocated on a first come first served basis so sign up quickly to avoid disappointment!

To join us, please visit <https://sams-strings-day-22.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you have any queries, please email us on

[stalbanmusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:stalbanmusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or visit

<http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/st-albans-music-school/>.

Thanks very much for your continued support.

## Dates for your Diary

- Friday 21st October School closed for INSET day.
- 24th-29th October School closed for half term
- Monday 31st October Children back to school
- 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
- Wednesday 9th November 6pm (please note change of time from 5.30). Virtual Phonics presentation for EYFS and KS1 parents who were unable to attend the in-person workshop. Details and meeting link will be sent out.
- 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.