

Learning and Growing with God by our Side



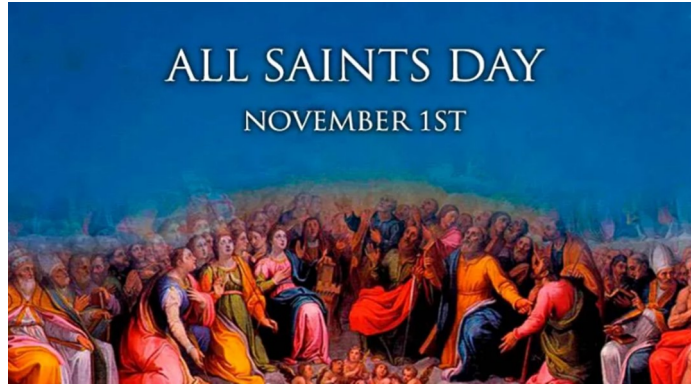
St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Weekly Newsletter



4th November 2022

Our Assemblies this Week



How many saints can you name? Maybe you even have a Saint's name yourself! In Assembly this week, we learnt that in many Christian paintings people are shown with haloes. The halo shows that the person is precious and special to God - i.e. 'holy'. We call these people 'saints'. Sometimes they were very brave and died because they believed in Jesus, or sometimes they were very good Christians. Christians call November 1st 'All Saints Day'. It used to be called 'All Hallows Day' and it is the day when we remember and give thanks for every saint. Many people believe that only very special and holy people are 'saints', but in fact we are all very precious and special to God. In the Bible St Paul said that all people who loved God and tried to do right were 'saints' - so in a way we are all saints too.

Go Forth: How will you try and be like a Saint today?

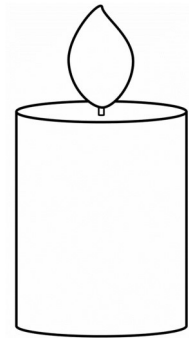
Dear God,
Thank you for the example of all the special people
who have loved you.
Help us to love you too,
and to remember that we are all your special 'saints'.
Amen.

November is a Month of Remembrance

Autumn is a time when we often look back on the year and remember the warm, sunny days of summer. In November, Christians across the world have special days of remembrance. November 2nd is a day when Christians remember and give thanks for the lives of people across the world who are no longer with us. This is called All Souls' Day. Mexicans also celebrate All Souls Day on November 2nd and call it Día de los Muertos. It is a very special occasion where families set up decorated altars with bunting, flowers, photos, candles and food to honour and pray for the memory of their ancestors. On All Souls' day, many Christians also pray about sad events across the world and remember those who have lost loved ones and are in need of help and comfort.

We will also be remembering all those who have suffered and died in war next week on November 11th, Remembrance Day.

This November, our Prayer Leaders are going to compile a special St Alban and St Stephen Book of Remembrance to use in our prayers. If you and your family would like us to remember a special person, event or place in the world, please write it on a candle and bring it into school. We will stick all of your candle prayers into our Book of Remembrance.



A drum, A drum, Year 5 doth come!

This week Year 5 have thrown themselves into our literary heritage and embraced our new English topic on Macbeth. Together, we read the story, in an abridged form, and became familiar with the characters. Then, we drew out story maps tracing the main events of the plot and acted out the play. The children's acting skills have been amazing and perhaps our Year 5 "witches" are to blame for conjuring up the recent bad weather!



Later in the week we created a "Soundscape". To the background image of a wasteland, the children imagined the sounds of a storm and then selected musical instruments to recreate this in the hall. From this haunting atmosphere, we went back to class and recorded all our ideas for a word bank, thinking about words with impact and relevance. Finally, in our books, we wrote a description of the scene on the heath where Macbeth first encounters the witches. All in all, a dramatic return to school!

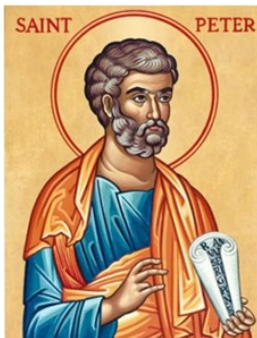


Welcome to the Junior Librarians



We are pleased to welcome our new Junior Librarians to their role. The Junior Librarians are pupil leaders who champion reading throughout the school. You can find the Junior Librarians in the library at break and lunchtimes. They give up some of their breaks to help keep the library tidy and inspire other children with their reading recommendations. Mrs Keaty, our School Librarian, is looking forward to working with her new team of assistants this year!

Congratulations to St Peter's House!



All of our House teams did brilliantly in the first Autumn half term, gaining many House Points for excellent effort, outstanding behaviour and for demonstrating our School values of Faith, Friendship, Determination, Respect and Unity. However, the winners were St Peter's House with an incredible 1079 points in total! The lucky winners were announced in Monday's assembly this week and will enjoy an extra celebration playtime.

	St Teresa	St Bernadette	St Paul	St Peter
Autumn 1	956	843	1044	1079

We remember Madeline Little

We are very sad to report the passing of Madeline Little, an inspirational teacher who taught at SSAS Infants' School for over thirty years, guiding and nurturing countless children along the way. Throughout her life, Madeline's abiding passion was education, which she believed could overcome any obstacle in life. She taught with love and patience, giving each and every one of the children in her care the building blocks of life - not just how to read and write, but how to explore, how to listen, how to observe, how to think independently, how to experiment and to ask questions; learning how to communicate, how to form relationships, how to understand the importance of sharing and taking turns and be sensitive to the needs of others - all the things that are so crucial in their general development.

Madeline had a natural empathy and ability to relate to children. She used to say that she could understand them because she herself remembered clearly what it was like to be a child, recalling how daunting, overwhelming and sometimes frightening the world can seem when you first have to get to grips with it. She was firm but always kind. Her silly jokes will go down in history! She worked tirelessly, encouraging every child to be curious and motivated in all sorts of activities as they began their own life journeys, above all, showing how important it was to respect each other and be thankful for all our blessings.

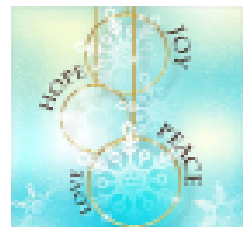
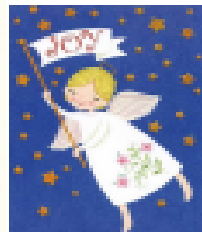
Madeline's funeral service will be held on 18th November 2022 at 11.30am at St Alban and St Stephen Church. All are welcome. If you are in touch with any former pupils of the Infants' School who may remember their happy school days with Mrs Little, please do let them know. Family flowers only: any donations may be made to Barnado's at www.barnardos.org.uk.



St Alban & St Stephen Year 5 and 6 Christmas Card Competition

Christmas may still seem a long way off, but it's already time for the bi-annual Christmas Card Competition organised by Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Church!

We would like all Year 5 and 6 pupils to design a Christmas card linked to the story of the Nativity. Your card should show the true meaning of Christmas.



You can use any 2-D media eg paint, felt tip pens, pencil, pastels. Your card should be A5 size.

All Christmas cards will be displayed on our school website, and the overall winning design will be used by Ss Alban and Stephen Church as their official Christmas artwork. There will be prizes for the overall winner in addition to prizes for the Year 5 and 6 winners.

Your Christmas card design should be completed at home and returned to the School Office by Friday November 11th. Please write your full name and class on the back of your design. Ask your teacher if you need some paper or card from school to make your card.

SSAS Mural

We have received many compliments about our beautiful new mural in the lower site reception area. It was designed and created by one of our very talented parents, Yva Jung. We would like to thank Yva and her family for giving up their time to bring our school Mission Statement to life. If you would like to find out more about how the mural was created, do watch the video on our website at <https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/catholic-life/school-mission-statement-and-values/>



The Hub

ASC/SEND Coffee Morning

Vista St Albans will be hosting a number of coffee mornings with a School Family Workers to help support Parents/ Carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, diagnosed or not. This is an informal and safe place for Parents/Carers to share information and chat.

Running alongside our coffee morning, there will also be the opportunity to pre-book an appointment with a member of staff from the SEND Specialist Advice and Support Service (These sessions are for ASC advice).
Times available are: 9.30am, 10.00am, 11.00am and 11.30am

Time: Coffee Morning starts at **9.15am** until **11.00am**
(no need to book)

Venue: The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW
(The Hub is situated to the right hand side of the School building)

**For more information about this service or to book an appointment
please call Vista/St Albans Plus on 07584 798528
Email: vistastalbans@gmail.com**



Dates 2022/23:
Wednesday 09 November 2022
Wednesday 18 January 2023
Wednesday 08 March 2023
Wednesday 26 April 2023
Wednesday 28 June 2023



www.vistastalbans.org.uk

Musical Opportunity for Ukrainian and Host Families

Invitations to attend a **FREE Family Drumming Workshop, Monday 14th November 6-7pm** at St Albans Music School, Townsend School, High Oaks, St Albans, AL3 6DR. Get together with other Ukrainian families for an uplifting session of music-making. For ages 5+. No unaccompanied children. No experience necessary. All instruments will be provided.

Tickets are available: Ukrainian Family Music Workshop Tickets, Mon 14 Nov 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite

Please note, each family member requires a separate ticket.

Музична можливість для українських та приймаючих сімей

Запрошення відвідати **БЕЗКОШТОВНИЙ** семінар з сімейного барабанного мистецтва, понеділок, 14 листопада, 6-7 вечора в музичній школі Сент-Олбанс, школі Таунсенд, Хай-Оукс, Сент-Олбанс, AL3 6DR.

Зберіться разом з іншими українськими сім'ями на надихаючий сеанс музикування. Для віку 5+. Немає дітей без супроводу. Досвід не потрібен. Всі інструменти будуть забезпечені.

Квитки можна придбати: Ukrainian Family Music Workshop Tickets, Mon 14 Nov 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite

Зверніть увагу, кожному члену сім'ї потрібен окремий квиток.

Strings Music Making Day, 22nd November 2022

o 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 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>

Dates for your Diary

- 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.