

Learning and Growing with God by our Side



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



9th December 2022

Praying The Angelus in Advent

Over Advent, the Prayer Leaders will be visiting different classes to teach them how to pray The Angelus. Father Andrew told the Prayer Leaders:

“The Angelus is a prayer which is traditionally said in the morning, at midday and in the evening to remind us that God became one of us in Jesus Christ. Because we spend Advent preparing for the celebration of the coming of Jesus, the Angelus is a great prayer to try out at this time. Listen out for the bells at St Alban and Stephen ringing at midday and at 6 o’clock in the evening to remind people to pray the Angelus.”



This is how to pray the Angelus:

The angel of the Lord declared to Mary and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

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.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be done to me according to your word.

Hail Mary.....

The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.

Hail Mary.....

Pray for us O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray,

Pour forth we beseech you O Lord, your Grace into our hearts, that we to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross be brought to the glory of his resurrection.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

SSAS News

Dear parents and carers,

It is certainly a busy and exciting time at SSAS as we get ready for our Christmas celebrations. The Key Stage 1 Nativity Play helped us all to think about the true meaning of Christmas and those present were moved by the beautiful singing and wonderful acting. Our festivities continue next week with the Key Stage 2 Carol Service at Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Church and the eagerly anticipated Early Years' Nativity Play.

The children are continuing with their learning despite the excitement of Christmas approaching. All year-groups have been finding out more about Advent in their R.E. lessons and studying Christmas-themed books in their English lessons, from Julia Donaldson's 'Stick Man' in Reception to Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' in Year 6.

At the end of this term, it is with great sadness that we will say goodbye to Ms Bowen, our wonderful P.E. lead. Ms Bowen has decided that the time is right to move on to pursue other opportunities, and we wish her all the luck and success she deserves in her future ventures. We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Ms Bowen for all that she has contributed to SSAS in the last couple of years. She has driven our PE curriculum forward to new heights and has turned the SSAS sports teams into a force to be reckoned with in St Albans and Hertfordshire!

We will also be saying farewell to Mrs Eley from our Early Years Team. We wish Mrs Eley all the very best for the future and cannot thank her enough for all of her hard work and commitment in the Reception classes. Mrs Eley's calm, cheerful presence has helped many Reception children to settle happily into school each day and she will be greatly missed by everyone.

Finally, I am delighted to welcome Mrs Cosgrave to the SSAS family. She will be starting as our School Business Manager in the School Office from January.

All of the staff would like to thank the parents and wider families of our pupils for their continued support during the Autumn term. We are looking forward to seeing many of you in school and church over the next week.

With best wishes,

Ms Hackett
Head of School

Oh Come Let Us Adore Him!



Last week, the Pupil Chaplains and Prayer Leaders were invited to the Catholic Children's Society Advent Carol Service in Westminster Cathedral, London. We could not believe how enormous and exquisite the Cathedral looked. The best parts were singing all of the carols with the choir, listening to the Bishop and watching the actors performing the Nativity story. We were really shocked that there were real, actual animals in the Cathedral...a donkey and a goat! We felt as if we had gone back in time to the days when Jesus was born.

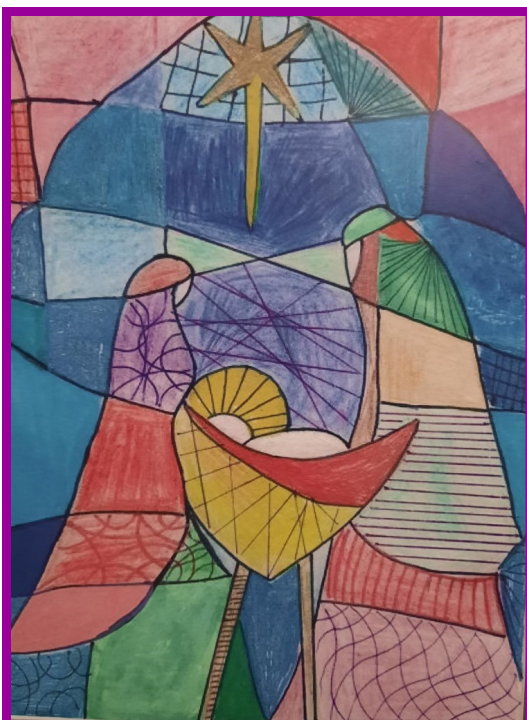
Reported by Aysel and Jayden, Year 5 Prayer Leaders



Christmas Card Winners



Thank you to all of the Year 5 and 6 pupils who entered the Ss Alban & Stephen Christmas card competition. Congratulations to the talented winners Ellie, Eirin and Cole, whose beautiful artworks were selected to adorn the front of all the Parish Christmas publications.

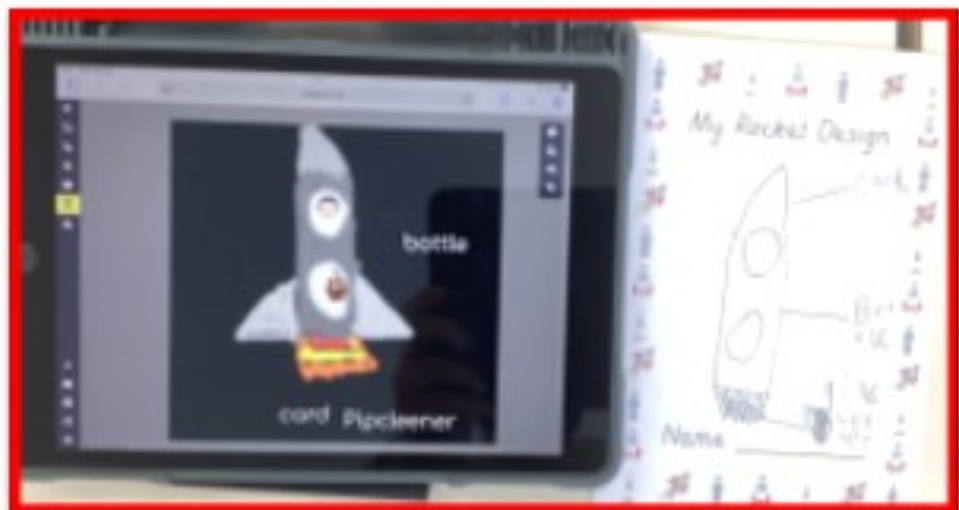


Building Rockets In Year 1!

In Year 1, our topic this half term has been 'Space Race'. As part of our computing, we have been designing and creating rockets. The children have been using the iPads to draw their designs, as well as create lists for the materials they will need. This week, the children created rockets that were out of this world!







We Love Art To The Moon And Back!

Also in Year 1, we have been learning about the artist *Lanthen Mihalic*. We have been experimenting with different materials to create different effects. Last week, we smudged chalk to create the effect of a galaxy. This week, the children have used clay to create the effect of the moon. They dabbed their clay with tissue and pressed with glue lids to create craters.



School Superstars

Well done to Maggie who has made an Advent calendar for someone who might need cheering up this Advent. Her Advent calendar is beautifully made and even contains sweets and chocolates!

Maggie said, "I wanted to help someone else to feel happy." We are so proud of you, Maggie, for living out our School Values of Faith and Friendship as you put others before yourself. We are sure that whoever receives your Advent calendar will be thrilled.



We were amazed and delighted to see a gingerbread replica of Class 1C appear in the staffroom this week, complete with edible whiteboards, tables and chairs! Miss Cotterell's creative talents were greatly appreciated and the 1C classroom was quickly consumed. It tasted even better than it looked! We are all expecting to see Miss Cotterell on The Great British Bake-Off one day in the near future...



Dates for your Diary

- 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 EYFS Nativity play, Lower Hall- *Nursery & Reception parents are welcome to attend.*
- Tuesday 20th December Christmas Jumper/Hat day and School Christmas Lunch
- Wednesday 21st December School Closes at 1.20pm (Lower Site) and 1.30pm (Upper Site)
- Thursday 5th January School Term begins for all pupils
- Friday 20th January 9.15 am Year 4 Curriculum Assembly in the Upper Hall *Year 4 parents are welcome to attend.*
- Friday 20th January Year 5 and 6 trip- Young Voices- O2
- Friday 27th January 9.15 am Year 1 Curriculum Assembly in the Lower Hall *Year 1 parents are welcome to attend.*
- 30th January-3rd February NSPCC Number Week
- 3rd February NSPCC Number Day- own Maths-themed clothes eg colours, shapes, numbers, patterns

A gentle reminder that children should not bring smartwatches of any kind into school. A Fitbit-style watch with basic functions is acceptable, but any watch with apps, internet connection or the ability to take photographs, play games or receive messages should be left at home. Thank you for your support with this.

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.

Ss Alban & St Stephen Primary School

Gym Jams Gymnastics

Spring Term Course 2023

Thursday morning club
Years 3-6
@7:45-8:40am
12th January- 23rd March
No session on the 16th February
10 week course
All abilities welcome
Limited space available
Course price £55.00

**A fun club learning key
gymnastics skills, achieving
awards & taking part in
displays.**

**Contact Coach Bev on
0775 334 8536 to book**



SEND News

Keeping you up-to-date with
Hertfordshire's SEND information
(including HAND)



[Front page](#) [Who's Who in SEND services](#) [SEND Local Offer](#)

Click <https://sendnews.hertfordshire.gov.uk/30-november-2022#HIT> to
read more about:

[Herts Inclusive Theatre \(ages 5 - adult\)](#)

[HAPpy camps booking open \(ages 4-16, in receipt of free school meals\)](#)

[Hertfordshire's Warm Spaces \(all ages\)](#)