

*Learning and Growing with God by our Side*



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



21st December 2022

## Praying the Angelus in Advent

This week, our Pupil Chaplains have taught all classes in the school how to pray the Angelus. As we learned last week, the Angelus is a good prayer for Advent because it helps us to remember the events of the Annunciation as we hear how Mary said, 'Yes' to God's call. The Angelus is also a prayer that we can pray several times each day as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. Why not pray the Angelus with your family each day between now and Christmas?



The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among 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 it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among 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 Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy 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

# Thank You and Well Done!

It has been an exciting two weeks with all of our Christmas productions and even some magical Christmas snow! Well done to everyone who took part in our Early Years Nativity play, our Key Stage 1 Nativity play and our Key Stage 2 carol service. All of the events and performances have helped us to prepare for Christmas by reminding us of the true Christmas story and its message of the Good News of God's love sent for everyone.

Another big well done to everyone - staff, pupils and parents - who struggled in through the icy weather conditions last week to keep our School open and help us to continue with our learning as usual. We couldn't have done it without everyone's flexibility and cheerful spirits! A special thank you is due to all of those people who helped us to get to school safely- our premises staff, our wonderful school crossing patrol, Mr Jackson, (pictured below- still smiling despite the Arctic conditions!) and Artur's Dad, who valiantly shovelled snow to keep the paths clear.

We wish all of our SSAS School family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to an exciting 2023 with you all!





# Thank You and Well Done!



## Year 2 Fantastic Ferris Wheels

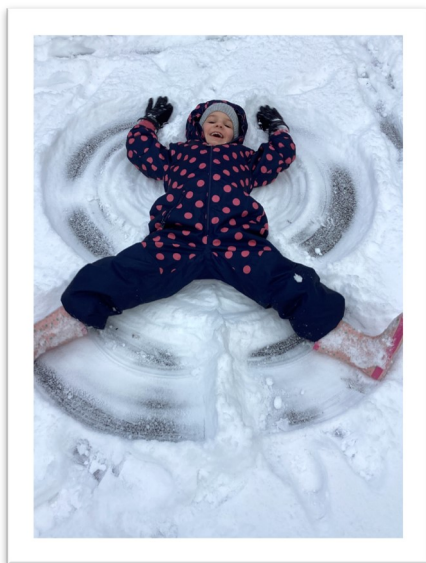
Year 2 have been learning all about axles in Design and Technology this half term. The children were given a project as a 'city engineer' to design and create a Ferris Wheel to carry 8-10 people. They thought carefully about the best materials to use and created their frame. It took a little bit of experimenting to get the wheels just right! The final step was adding the pods. We think we may have some budding engineers among our Year 2 class in the future!!





## Let it Snow!

There was plenty of excitement when the children woke up to our very own Winter Wonderland on Monday morning. The children wrote all about their experience in their English Lesson and there were lots of beautiful adjectives to describe the wonderful weather we had. On Tuesday afternoon we wrapped up warm and braved the cold weather to enjoy and experience the snow before it melted away. The children were busy shovelling the snow, making snowballs and creating mini snowmen. It's definitely beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!

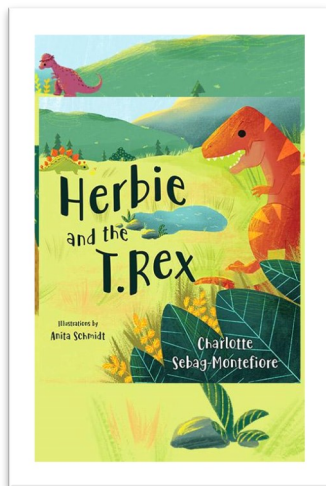


# Author Visit

Last week, Year 1 and Year 2 were lucky enough to have a visit from an author.

**Charlotte Sebag-Montefiore** has written four books for children and she came in to tell us all about her recent book called, “Herbie and the T-Rex”. This is a dinosaur story with all the hallmarks of a bedtime classic plus a modern twist! Herbie and his dino friends need to watch out, as a terrifying T. Rex is creeping about! We thought this was a beautifully illustrated story about friendship.

Charlotte taught us the name of a dinosaur we hadn't heard of before: a pachycephalosaur. Did you know it had a skull 30 times thicker than a human skull? They may have fought with their heads. We thoroughly enjoyed learning so much during her visit.



## News from our Library



Our Junior Librarians are from year 5 and 6. We were inundated with applications for the positions in September. Each and every one who applied deserved the role, so all have been assigned a term of office over the course of the academic year. The Junior Librarians have been working together during break and lunch times, helping me and helping the other children. They have shown enthusiasm, co-operation, comradery, and initiative. They are wonderful ambassadors and role models, passionate about reading and show a great love for our library space. Our younger children are taking note, and many have already expressed an interest in the role. There is a lovely, cheerful buzz in the library every day and everyone tells me how much they enjoy their time there.

I am inspired every day by their willingness to learn, creativity and helpfulness to others. They have kept me on my toes with their suggestions for improvements. It has been a pleasure to work with each and every one of them. A new team of Junior Librarians will take over in January and I look forward working with them and continuing on the great work we have started in the library.

**Mrs Keaty, School Librarian**



# Library News

## Birthday Book Club - Launch - January 2023

We have had a great response to our healthy school initiative around birthdays (allowing your child to wear their own clothes instead of sweet treats). To enhance this initiative, we would like to offer you the opportunity to sponsor a new book for our library to celebrate and mark your child's special day.

If you choose to take part, your child will get the chance to select a book with the help of our school Librarian. Their name will be inscribed on a dedication plate in the book, and they will be the first one to borrow it from the library to share at home. The book titles and names of the donors will be acknowledged in our newsletter and on our website.

We will let you know more details in January about how you can take part.

At SSAS, we are passionate about reading for pleasure. This is a gift which will not only enrich our school library but will also teach the children about giving and sharing. It really is the gift that keeps on giving!

## Keep Reading over the Christmas Holidays!

The children have borrowed and read an amazing number of books this term:

**1228 fiction and  
918 non-fiction!!!**

Girls slightly out-read the boys with 92% of girls borrowing books compared to 89% of boys. Well done everyone!! Please keep reading over the holidays. While our school library is closed our local libraries will be open and running some exciting events and initiatives. Please check out their Facebook pages for opening hours and further details

[St Albans Library | Facebook](#)  
[Marshalswick Library | Saint Albans | Facebook](#)



## Dates for your Diary

- 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 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.*
- Friday 27th January 2.30 pm KS2 Parents' Reading Presentation in the Upper Hall led by the English subject lead *KS2 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

School begins for the Spring Term on Thursday January 5th.

Have a wonderful break –  
we look forward to seeing you all in 2023.

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.

**Essex Fire Museum Christmas Open Day**  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
(Come and meet Santa)



Visits must be pre-booked via: [museum@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:museum@essex-fire.gov.uk)

Address: Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire station,  
Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS