



Dear SAS parents and carers,

It has certainly been a very busy first half of the summer term at school as you will have seen from our weekly class blogs on the website!

At the start of May, we celebrated the Coronation with tea-parties, art work, volunteering activities in the 'Big Help-Out' and ice-lolly treats!

All of the classes really enjoyed their new topics and have been lucky enough to go on lots of trips to enrich and deepen their learning. Year 3 decided that school isn't so bad after all once they had experienced a Victorian child's typical school day at the Hitchin Schools Museum; Year 4 learnt more about local history during their visit to the Abbey; Year 6 watched 'Wicked' in the West End to prepare for their own show, and Year 1 visited Mead Open Farm and, with perfect timing, arrived just as a calf was being born!

May has also been our assessment month. Year 2 have been working very hard all month on their SATS and teacher assessments. We were very proud of our Year 6 students who showed great resilience and determination during SATS week. In the final week of the half term, other classes have been taking part in a range of assessment tasks so that the teachers can see what the children have learnt this year and identify the next steps needed. Luckily for all of these hardworking children, Mr Wallace, our Sports Coach, organised a brilliant circus workshop this week so that everyone had a chance to relax and have fun!

Mr Keane joined us this half term as our new Executive Head. Mr Keane has been a Head teacher and Governor for many years in London and Hertfordshire. As lots of the pupils have already discovered, Mr Keane is also a keen football fan! We are delighted to welcome him to SAS.

Of course, our most important (and adorable) visitors this half term have been the chicks! Children across the school loved watching them hatch out of their eggs and enjoyed observing and holding the chicks as they travelled on their grand tour around the different classrooms.

Let us hope that the beautiful sunshine of the last week lasts over the Bank Holiday weekend and beyond! I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing break and look forward to seeing everyone on Monday June 5th.

With best wishes,

Ms T. Hackett, Head of School



Catholic Life

This month, we remembered Mary, our Blessed Mother. Year 1 led a beautiful Marian celebration during which they crowned the statue of Mary and laid flowers at her feet.

Perhaps you can pray Mary's special prayer at home with your 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.

St Bernadette's House pupils also enjoyed celebrating their special Saint's Day with worship, singing and a special playtime with a sweet treat! We celebrated the great church feast days of Ascension and Pentecost with special assemblies led by the Pupil Chaplains.

Why not celebrate Pentecost with your family this weekend and try out some of these prayer and activity ideas? <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/pentecost-family-prayer-ideas>

Parent Volunteers

We were excited to welcome back in regular parent volunteers for the first time since the pandemic. Our wonderful team of parent (and grandparent!) volunteers received training on safeguarding, phonics and how we teach reading in school. They have now started to help in our library and hear children read on a weekly basis. If you would like to volunteer, and you can commit to a regular weekly slot of two hours, please speak to Mrs Cosgrave in the School Office or contact us at admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk.

PTA News

Thanks to successful fundraising events like the Quiz Night, the PTA have been able to purchase many resources for our school. We are very grateful for the PTA's support in buying and installing two defibrillators, one in the Lower Site main office reception area, and one outside the Upper Site main entrance. Full instructions for use are written on the front of the defibrillator case.



Online Safety

This half term, pupils have continued to learn about how to keep themselves safe online as part of our PSHE Life to the Full curriculum. If you would like to learn more about online safety for your children, there are helpful guides covering a wide range of e-safety issues at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> and <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>.

Reminders

Classroom doors open at 8.45 each morning. Please do not leave your children unattended or allow them to play on playgrounds and use play equipment before school, as staff are not supervising the outdoor areas at this time.

A gentle reminder that drivers should not park on the zigzag lines outside school, on double yellow lines, or across driveways and should not stop in the middle of the road to drop children off or pick them up. Please help to keep our children safe and our neighbours happy by driving and parking safely and with consideration for others!

Parent Survey

Thank you to the parents who took the time to complete our School survey in the Spring term- the results are shown in the table below. As a school, we were very pleased with your positive feedback. 93% of parents reported that their child is happy at SAS and 95% of parents said that their child feels safe at school- this is important to us as safeguarding is our number one priority. It was also good to read that that 92% of parents would recommend the school. Thank you also for all the individual comments that were left on the bottom of the survey - there were many lovely comments and some helpful suggestions.

There were some statements on the questionnaire where parents did not feel informed enough to be able to agree or disagree. We recognise that the timing of the survey meant that parents had not yet had their Spring consultations, so may not have had all the information that they needed. However, we want to address this to make sure that as parents and carers you feel fully informed about the daily work of the school, to know how we deal with bullying and how we develop your child's skill in mathematics. We are going to produce an updated parent handbook for the school which will give you all the information that you need as parents and carers. We are also planning to schedule a wider range of parent workshops next year so that you have more opportunities to come into school and learn about how your child grows and learns with us. Finally, we plan to continue our half termly Friday parent coffee mornings so that you can come in and chat to members of the SLT, Governors and the PTA.

		Yes (%)	Unsure (%)	No (%)
1	I feel my child is part of a Catholic school community	93	5	1
2	I feel welcomed when I visit St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery and staff members are approachable.	95	5	0
3	My child is happy at St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery.	93	3	3
4	My child feels safe at St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery.	95	5	0
5	My child is making good progress at St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery.	81	16	3
6	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery meets my child's particular needs.	79	18	3
7	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery ensures my child is well looked after.	93	7	0
8	My child is taught well at St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery.	83	14	3
9	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery helps my child to develop skills in mathematics.	77	20	3
10	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery helps my child to develop skills in communication.	84	15	1
11	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery helps my child to develop skills in reading.	84	14	2
12	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery helps my child to develop skills in writing.	85	8	7
13	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery expects a good standard of behaviour.	91	8	1
14	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery deals with any cases of bullying effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying).	57	41	2
15	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery helps me to support my child's learning.	87	10	3
16	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery responds well to my concerns.	77	14	9
17	St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery keeps me well informed. (emails, text messages, newsletters, website, parent consultations etc.).	77	14	9
18	My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	73	20	8
20	I would recommend SSAS to another parent.	92		8