



Dear SSAS parents and carers,

It has been a great start to our new school year. Our Reception and Nursery children have settled in to School life beautifully, and we have also welcomed a number of new staff and pupils in other year groups. The social highlight of our term so far has been the P.T.A. Autumn Fair. Early reports show that over £4,000 was raised- an amazing total which will be used to benefit children across the school. Thank you to David Eaton, who has been the Chair of the P.T.A. for several years and is now stepping down along with Maddy Eaton. David has made a huge contribution to the P.T.A. and his energy, enthusiasm and ability to get other parents involved will be greatly missed! Fortunately, Ruth Davies, Valeria Kelly, Sara Garcia and Colette Sheehan have offered to step into David's shoes as co-chairs. We are very grateful to you all!

Congratulations to Laura Scullion, parent of Teresa, and Nicola Clancy, parent of Max and Florence. They have been appointed as our new Parent Governors.

Lots of you will have seen our stunning new displays around the school reminding us of our School mission statement and values. The children are very proud that they helped to create these artworks, and are enjoying their bright and vibrant learning environment.

Although the children have only just started their new year-groups, you will have seen during Parent Consultations yesterday that they have been working very hard. Poetry Week saw our budding poets reading and writing a range of poems. Key Stage 2 have loved writing thrilling stories for our 500 Words competition. In Year 2, the children have learnt all about London, ordered snacks in local café Room for Dessert and even visited Buckingham Palace. They had a ride in Mr Hodgson's taxi which featured in the new Paddington film! In Year 1, the class was visited by a very mischievous tiger who wanted to come to tea. This was so much fun that Year 1 even wrote letters back to the tiger! EYFS have had great fun being dynamic designers in the new construction area and proud performers on the music stage using all the new musical instruments. Year 6 had a very successful residential trip to the Isle of Wight, despite the cold and windy weather. In extra-curricular news, our Sports teams continue to enjoy great success, with our boys' and girls' football teams not conceding a single goal yet! Finally, by popular request, Key Stages 1 and 2 now have a lunchtime chess club.



## Catholic Life

St Teresa's House pupils enjoyed celebrating their special Saint's Day with worship, singing and a sweet treat! We also gathered at the start of the School year with a Mass in Church led by Year 4. Following Catholic Social Teaching reminding us to participate in our community, the Pupil Chaplaincy Team organised and led our Harvest Festival and Harvest Appeal. As a result of your generosity, we were able to donate over a dozen crates of food to the St Albans Food Bank.



This October half term, why not pray the Rosary each day with your family?

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/pray-the-rosary>

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/pray-the-rosary/marian-family-prayer-ideas>

## Online Safety

This half term, pupils have continued to learn about how to keep themselves safe online as part of our PSHE and Computing curriculum. You should already have discussed and signed our school Acceptable Online Use Policy with your child <https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Online-Safety-Acceptable-Use-Agreement-Pupil-and-Parent.pdf>.

But how can you continue to ensure that your child is safe online when they are at home? Teachers often deal with situations where children have viewed age-inappropriate content at home, or have stayed up late online and cannot concentrate in school the next day as a result.

We strongly recommend that parents install parental controls on all devices used at home.

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices. Parental controls can help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content
- manage the content different family members can see.

The NSPCC has this helpful guide for parents: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

## Reminders

We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 30th October at 8.45. Please be in school promptly. Classroom doors open at 8.45 and close at 8.55 a.m.. Children can bring in their own rosary beads on Monday and Tuesday as we will be marking the end of the Month of the Rosary by praying together. After half term, children should wear winter uniform and always bring a coat to school. <https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Uniform-List-2023-24.pdf>

I wish you a lovely Autumn half term break with your family and friends.



With best wishes,  
Ms T. Hackett, Head of School

