

Dear SSAS parents and carers,

At last we have seen some sunshine this week, and, despite the chilly weather, it really feels as if Spring is here! These stunning displays of daffodils and tulips were planted by children with the help of our fabulous environmental tutor, Miss Sophia. Miss Sophia also led two volunteer days this half term, during which planters and raised beds for vegetables were rebuilt, and a small orchard of apple and pear trees was planted. Thank you to the green-fingered parents who helped, to our Eco Warriors and also to the P.T.A. who pay for Miss Sophia to come in and make our school burst into bloom!



Catholic Life



We have continued our school journey together through Lent with reflections on the Stations of the Cross in the prayer garden each lunchtime, led by our Year 6 Pupil Chaplaincy Team and Prayer Leaders. At the start of Holy Week, Year 5 performed a reverent dramatisation of the Passion of Christ to the parents and pupils. All of our learning during our R.E. topics of Lent and Easter was vividly brought to life, as Year 5 reminded us God's amazing grace and love shown in the death and resurrection of His Son.

Our Catholic Social Teaching theme this half term has been "Dignity of Workers". Some classes looked at the rights of workers, while others found out more about Fair Trade. In assemblies and pupil-led prayer and liturgy, we reflected on the Bible verse Deuteronomy 14:29:

'The Lord blesses our work, so that we may share its fruits with others.'

Year 2 Willow Class's Easyjet film campaign tackled gender discrimination in the workplace and tied in with our Catholic Social Teaching. <https://vimeo.com/914471915/b8ed061ac5?share=copy>

At the start of March, we also marked World Day of Prayer as the start of Pope Francis's Year of Prayer. We have been practising using sign language to say The Lord's Prayer at school. Why not do this every day with your family at home over the Easter holidays? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnww2ndRfzA>

Throughout Lent, our pupils have been collecting money for the Catholic Children's Society. Please bring your collection boxes back as soon as possible. We also wish Mrs Purvey, our Office Administrator, and Mrs Porter, our former Assistant Head, the best of luck as they embark on their training for a mighty hike on the Giant's Causeway to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Have a look at their Just Giving page if you would like to support them. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/teameilish>

Other News

It has been a short half term packed with special events and excitement. On World Book Day, we dressed as heroic and villainous book characters. The author Olaf Falafel had us all in stitches with his hilarious talks about every topic from books to snails to bottoms! During Science Week, some of our parents who work in STEM industries visited classes to lead workshops and talk about their careers, from F1 racing car designer to civil engineer. We were also wowed by a 'Mad Science' show. Both our author visit and the science assembly were funded by the P.T.A.- their fundraising enriches our curriculum and gives our pupils memorable and exciting experiences!



The fun continued with a Skip2BFit workshop for Key Stage 2. Congratulations to our overall winner, Fai Shen, who achieved more skips in one minute than any other pupil in the school. Commiserations to Mr Wallace, who was beaten by Fai Shen in a live contest in front of Key Stage 2! It is lovely to see pupils spending their lunchtimes skipping and challenging themselves to skip faster and more skilfully- what a great way to keep fit!

Other sporting triumphs this term have included our Girls' Football Team, Year 5 Boys' Football Team and Year 6 Boys' Football A Team winning their leagues. The Year 3/4 Quick Cricket Team achieved 2nd place in the District tournament. Next term, the Netball team will be competing in the league finals against STAHS. SSAS has also achieved great success musically. Our choir and orchestra did a wonderful job performing in the SAPSMA concert at the Alban Arena this week. Excitingly, our Upper School choir has been selected as one of the finalists competing to perform in the prestigious Hertfordshire Festival of Music.

In staffing news, Mrs Ilott has retired from our Breakfast Club team, although she continues to work as a midday supervisor in the Nursery. Mr Walker has joined us as a member of the Breakfast Club team. Finally, we hope to welcome a temporary Executive Head Teacher for one day each week next term to support us in the run-up to our Catholic Schools Inspection.

Reminders

From the start of the Summer Term, children can wear the summer school uniform: <https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Uniform-List-2023-24.pdf>

All of the staff at St Alban & St Stephen would like to thank you for your continuing support, and wish you a very happy Easter.



May the joy of the risen Christ be a comfort and a blessing to you and your families.

With best wishes,

Ms T. Hackett

Head of School

