



Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring has well and truly sprung at St Alban & St Stephen! After an unusually long half-term due to the late date of Easter this year, the children have been enjoying the warmer weather at break-times. They have also been very excited to see the bulbs which were planted with our environmental tutor, Miss Sophia, popping up in a magnificent display of colour around the school!

Staffing News This half term, we have welcomed Mr Carr and Miss Connolly to the Year 2 team. Both are greatly enjoying working with Cherry Class. Congratulations to Miss Gibson, our Nursery Teaching Assistant, on the birth of gorgeous baby Johnnie.

Curriculum, Trips and Extra-Curricular Activities The school has been buzzing with energy and activity over the last few weeks! Our World Book Day 2025 celebrations were a huge success! Children and staff dressed up in cosy PJs and also enjoyed a visit from hilarious author, James Campbell. The PTA World Book Day Bake Sale and the well-attended Book Fair raised funds for new books for the School Library. I would also like to thank those parents who regularly give up their time to support reading in our school: Mrs Yeadon and our other reading volunteers, and Mrs Markham and Mrs McAvan who run our upper site library at lunchtimes.

As always, our Science & Engineering Week was a highlight of the term. Early Years and KS1 children loved meeting a range of animals and creepy-crawlies in their Amazing Animals activity, while KS2 pupils were inspired by their lessons in the Science Dome. A special thank you to the parents who came into school to tell us about their amazing jobs in STEM professions and provided workshops that sparked curiosity and creativity in all our children.

On Neurodiversity Celebration Day, children attended a special assembly to celebrate the strengths and talents of people who learn and think differently. We learnt about famous celebrities like Billie Eilish, Daniel Radcliffe and Greta Thunberg who are all neurodiverse and who attribute their success to their unique way of thinking. You can watch the video shown in assembly here: [What is Neurodiversity: A Video for Children](#) .

Trips to enrich our curriculum have included a visit to Mountfitchet Castle for Year 2 as part of their History topic, a visit to Whipsnade Zoo for Year 5 to learn more about animal adaptations in Science, and a walk to Clarence Park to look for signs of Spring in Reception. Year 4 have also attended swimming lessons for two weeks. The swimming coach commended the pupils on their determination – by the end of the fortnight, all children were confident in the water and had made excellent progress. Year 5 pupils also showed great perseverance during their Bikeability Week.

Our half-term ended on a high with an Easter Egg hunt organised by the PTA. Families enjoyed the blue skies and sunshine , and we even caught a glimpse of the Easter Bunny!



Catholic Life

This half term, we have journeyed together through Lent, a time of reflection, prayer, and growth. Our Pupil Chaplaincy Team led each class on a *Stations of the Cross* pilgrimage around the school grounds. At each station, the children paused to listen to readings, pray, and consider the journey of Jesus on Good Friday. Walking prayerfully in Christ's footsteps as pilgrims of hope deepened the children's understanding of Jesus's sacrifice. The pilgrimage also encouraged everyone who took part to think about themes of perseverance, kindness, and sacrifice in their own lives.

We have also been collecting donations for our Lenten charity, **The Catholic Children's Society**, which supports disadvantaged children and families in the South East. Collection boxes should be handed into the School Office after the Easter break.

Our Catholic Social Teaching theme for the half term was 'Dignity of Workers'. We learnt more about this theme through special assemblies and visits from people who help us in their different jobs, including Miss Rozz, our School Crossing Patrol. Our focus Bible verse for the half term was:

'The Lord blesses our work, so that we may share its fruits with others.' (*Deuteronomy 14:28-29*)



Online Safety

After the Easter break, we will begin teaching our RHSE (Relationship, Health and Sex Education) programme, 'Life to the Full' to all year groups. Module 2 will include teaching around staying safe online. You can read more about the content of each module here: [LTTF-P PARENTINFOBOOKLET \(1\).pdf](#) . Parents can also find helpful tips to help determine what's right for each child in terms of tech ownership and usage throughout childhood here: [Children and technology: Age-appropriate usage advice | NSPCC](#) . Finally, please remember that no smartphones are to be used on school grounds. In line with other St Albans schools, we recommend that children in primary school should not have smartphones and should not belong to any form of social media group such as WhatsApp or SnapChat. Sign up here for the parent pact to give your child a smartphone-free childhood: <https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Reminders

We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on **Wednesday 23rd April at 8.45**. Classroom doors open at 8.45 and close at 8.55 a.m. Children should wear the summer school uniform on the days when they do not have P.E. lessons, including a school red cap.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our wonderful parent community, for your continued support throughout this term. As we break for the Easter holidays, I pray that you all enjoy a peaceful and joyful time with your loved ones. May we all continue to reflect on the

message of Easter and the hope and renewal it brings to our lives.

Wishing you all a blessed and happy Easter.

T. Hackett

Ms T. Hackett, Head of School

