



Summer 2 2025



St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Learning and growing with God by our side.



Dear parents and carers,

It's hard to believe that it is the end of another school year already! Despite the recent hot and humid weather, the children have continued to work hard, making great progress in their summer assessments, as well as having lots of fun with their learning.

We are so proud of our Year 1 and Year 6 classes. Our excellent academic results in the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and Year 6 SATS tests show that it is possible to teach a broad and rich curriculum without a narrow focus on exam practice, while still achieving outstanding results which are well above the Herts and national average.

In our Adult Leavers' assembly yesterday, we said a sad goodbye to those staff who are leaving. Mrs Grogan is retiring after 13 years at SSAS. We will miss her creativity, her words of wisdom and super First Aid skills (did you know that Mrs Grogan can drive an ambulance?! It was lovely to welcome Mrs Grogan's family to school to watch as she received her cards and gifts.

The highlight of the past term was our incredible International Day, with the theme 'All are Welcome'. This colourful and vibrant day was a celebration of the diversity of our school. We all enjoyed ourselves so much that the PTA are planning to make it an annual event.

May the summer holidays bring you rest, joy, and cherished time with loved ones, and may God bless all of our families and keep us safe throughout the break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term, refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

Ms T. Hackett
Head of School

Catholic Life

Ss Peter & Paul House Celebrations

Every pupil in our school belongs to one of four Houses, named after Patron Saints. Each day, positive behaviour earns points for your House. The Houses also compete against each other on Sports Day. However, the most special day for each House is their House Saint Day Celebration. This half term, St Peter's House and St Paul's House took part in Acts of Worship led by Year 6, and reflected on how their House Saint inspires them.

Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

Throughout the Jubilee Year, a torch of hope has been travelling to Catholic schools throughout Hertfordshire. This pilgrimage has been organised by All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT). Our Pupil Chaplaincy Team travelled to St John Fisher Catholic Primary School to receive the torch. We then carried the torch on a short pilgrimage to Ss Alban & Stephen Parish Church, to celebrate our special St Alban's Mass. Finally, we passed the torch on to St Bernadette's in a shared act of worship. It felt very special to make links with other local Catholic primary schools and meet new friends.

Other ways of celebrating the Jubilee Year have included fundraising, visiting Westminster Cathedral for a Festival of Hope, and holding a Jubilee of Artists with the theme of 'Hope'.

The Jubilee will continue in our new school year as we start to think about our Jubilee legacy. As a school, we will be making Jubilee pledges so that we can build a kinder, fairer world where we all stand together to care for each other and for the planet.



Update on the Parent Questionnaire

	Strongly Agree / Agree %	Unsure/ Neutral %	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree %
My child feels happy at this school.	90	8	2
My child feels safe at this school.	94	3	3
The school makes sure children are well-behaved.	84	12	4
I know what my child has been learning this year.	82	13	5
The school has high expectations of my child.	69	25	6
My child is making good progress at school.	82	10	8
Staff know my child as an individual.	87	8	5
My child's wider personal development is supported.	79	16	5
The school helps my child to live out our Catholic mission.	94	5	1
RE lessons develop my child's religious/moral/spiritual knowledge.	95	4	1
I feel welcome to participate in the school's religious life.	93	5	2
My child is part of a Catholic community.	92	7	1
I feel welcomed when I visit the school. Staff are approachable.	93	4	3
Any concerns raised have been dealt with properly. (25% had not raised any concerns).	58	12	5
Any bullying has been dealt with quickly and effectively. (79% had not been bullied).	9	9	3
My child with SEND received the support that they need to succeed. (73% did not have a child with SEND).	15	6	6
There are a good range of clubs/extra-curricular opportunities.	69	21	10
The costs of optional activities e.g. trips are reasonable.	82	15	3
Homework expectations are clear, manageable, age appropriate.	61	25	14
Home-School communication is clear.	75	19	6
I know how to support my child's education at home.	81	12	7
I would recommend this school.	84	10	6

Thank you to all who responded to the survey. You told us in your additional comments that school is a nurturing and warm community which teaches respect for everyone and for different cultures. You particularly value the dedicated staff, the inclusive atmosphere and the opportunities for parents to participate through religious events, the PTA and volunteering.

You also told us that homework is often a challenge. Views were divided on whether creative or structured homework is more helpful. Some parents felt that there should be more homework in the older years. We will review our homework policy in the Autumn term with staff and parents. Some parents also said how helpful they find the parent workshops. We will continue to hold these next year and will also introduce some new workshops to support with areas like GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling). Several parents would also like to see a wider range of clubs. We continue to liaise with external clubs and next year hope to welcome some new clubs including English, Maths, Drama, Tennis and Multisports.



Important Dates

- Thursday 4th September 8.45: KS1 and KS2 pupils return to school
- Thursday 4th September 1-3pm: New Reception pupils and parents Teddy Bears' Picnic
- Friday 5th September 8.45: New Reception pupils start school
- Tuesday 9th September 1-3pm: New Nursery pupils and parents Teddy Bears' Picnic
- Wednesday 10th September: Staggered Nursery start