

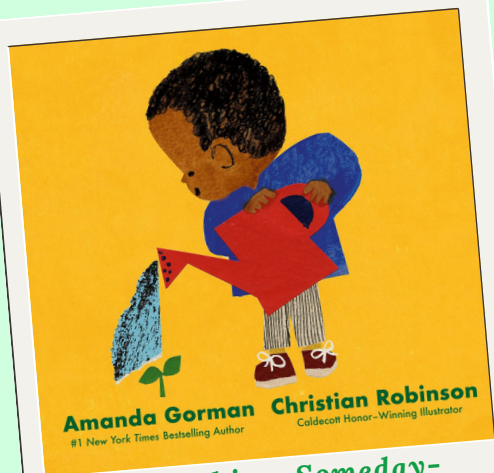


Autumn 1 2025



St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Learning and growing with God by our side.



Something, Someday-
our Book of the Year



Harvest Festival



**Making a Difference: Parent
Volunteer Day with our
Environmental Tutor**

Dear parents and carers,

What a busy first half term we have had! It has been a joy to see the children settle so well into their new classes. We asked the children what they have enjoyed so far. George in Year 1 said, 'I love coming into school because I have fun with my friends.' Francesca in Reception told us, 'My teacher helped me feel happy and safe,' while Year 5 Maple Class are looking forward to, 'loads of fun things ahead'!

Our book of the year is 'Something, Someday' by the poet Amanda Gorman. Sharing this book in assemblies and lessons has inspired us all to reflect on the power of small actions and hopeful hearts. This year, we will remember that doing something good—no matter how small—can spark meaningful change and make a huge difference. Throughout the half term, our pupils have brought this message to life in many ways. Our Harvest celebrations reminded us of the importance of gratitude and generosity, with the wonderful donations you provided for the St Albans Food Bank going to support local families in need.

Now, as we begin this next half term, we look forward to building on that positive momentum. There is plenty to be excited about in the weeks ahead—from our Advent preparations and Nativity performances to new topics in class and opportunities for pupil leadership and service. We will continue to encourage every child to be the "something, someday" that makes a difference in our world.

Ms J. Hackett
Head of School

Academisation Update



At the end of last year, a letter was sent out to confirm that, following consultation, the Governors at St Alban & St Stephen agreed that the school would follow the Bishop's Mandate and join the All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT).

<https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/academisation-consultation/>

Over the past term, work has continued between school leaders, the Trust, the Diocese, the DfE and the Local Authority toward the academy conversion of the school. As you may be aware, it was originally expected that this would take place on the 1st September. Due to Local Authority workload and timeframes, there have been further delays. It is now expected that the conversion will take place on the 1st December 2025. The Governors look forward to sharing confirmation of our academy transfer in due course, and will continue to keep you updated.

Catholic Life

St Teresa's House Celebrations

Last half term, St Teresa's House celebrated their House Saint's feast day. Wearing their house colour, yellow, they created pledges on yellow heart-shaped cards, expressing ways they could serve others. After the liturgy led by Father Michael, everyone enjoyed a sunny afternoon in the playground with delicious ice lollies. It was a very special time together honouring the life and legacy of St Teresa.

Black History Week

Our school community came together to celebrate Black History Week through art, music, and storytelling. A highlight was the energetic Zamble African Dance workshop, where pupils experienced the joy of traditional West African rhythms. Across the school, children learned about inspiring Black figures who have shaped British history and culture. Rooted in our Catholic Social Teaching, the week reminded us of the importance of our school values of respect and unity, and that our strength as a community lies in our wonderful diversity.



School Development Plan 2025-26

We are always looking for ways to make SSAS even better for our pupils and school community. Each year, we create a School Development Plan. Our key priorities are drawn from our pupil, staff and parent questionnaires, pupil voice, assessment data, observations around the school and feedback we receive. This year, we have five key priorities as our focus. Each term, we will update you on our progress. You can help by coming to our parent coffee mornings to give feedback, attending our parent presentations and homework working party to learn more and share your ideas, and by continuing to let us know what you love about SSAS and what could be improved still further.

AREA	KEY PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE
1. CATHOLIC LIFE & R.E.	Religious Education Curriculum	To implement the new Religious Education curriculum as required by the Diocese and ensure that R.E. lessons are challenging and creative with clear feedback and next steps given to pupils.
2. QUALITY OF EDUCATION	Oracy	To embed a whole-school approach to oracy that equips all pupils with the skills to speak confidently, listen actively, and engage in purposeful, structured talk across the curriculum.
3. INCLUSION	Care for the most vulnerable-children with PPG & SEND	To ensure that all vulnerable pupils, particularly those eligible for Pupil Premium and with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, receive high-quality support enabling them to reach their full potential in school.
4. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT / BEHAVIOUR	Outdoor play	To improve the quality of children's outdoor play experiences in school to build their determination, creativity and collaboration.
5. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP	Home-School Partnership	To enhance and strengthen effective communication and collaboration between school and families to foster a supportive, inclusive, and engaged school community-including reviewing the homework system.

Important Dates

- Prospective Parent Tours: <https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/joining-our-school/open-mornings-visits/>
- Friday 7th November Individual and Sibling School Photographs
- Friday 7th November @ 9.00 KS1 parents/carers Phonics presentation
- Friday 14th November @9.00 All parents/carers Behaviour presentation
- Friday 28th November @2.15 Parents' Homework working party
- Friday 5th December @9.30 Nativity Play for Reception Parents/ Carers
- Friday 5th December @ 2.15 All parents/carers Oracy presentation
- Tuesday 9th December @ 1.30 Key Stage 2 Advent Carol Service at St Paul's Church
- Wednesday 10th December @9.00 Meet the SENDCo Coffee Morning
- Friday 12th December @9.15 Nativity Play for Year 1 and 2 Parents/Carers
- Friday 19th December @9.30 Christmas Concert for Nursery Families

