



Autumn 2 2025



# St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

*Learning and growing with God by our side.*



*Anti-Bullying Week*



*Year 1 Run to Bethlehem!*



*Reception Nativity Play*

Dear parents and carers,

This has been a joyful and busy half-term. Our children have worked incredibly hard and shown kindness and respect. During Anti-Bullying Week, with the theme "Power for Good", pupils took part in activities and discussions that highlighted how positive choices and actions can make a real difference to others.

We also shared many special celebrations, including our delightful Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity performances and our Key Stage 2 Advent Carol Service, which helped us reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. A particular highlight has been our SSAS Run to Bethlehem challenge, supporting the work of Christian Aid. We are so proud that, thanks to your incredible generosity, we have smashed our original £500 fundraising target, with additional funds raised through our cosy Christmas jumper day taking our current total to over £800!

We are excited to end the term with a brand-new PTA event – our Christmas Family Elf Trail. It promises to be a fun and festive way for families to enjoy the school grounds together, spreading Christmas cheer and creating happy memories.

On behalf of the SSAS staff, I wish you and your families a joyful, peaceful and blessed Christmas. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, refreshed and ready for another successful term ahead.

*Ms J. Hackett*  
Head of School

# Academisation Update



It was agreed following consultation last year that St Alban & St Stephen would follow the Bishop's Mandate and join the All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT). Over the past terms, 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 were further delays. We are pleased to announce that it has now been confirmed that the conversion will take place on the 1st January 2026. The Governors look forward to sharing confirmation of our academy transfer in due course, and will continue to keep you updated.

## Catholic Life

### Catholic Children's Society Advent Carol Service

Our Year 5 and 6 Pupil Chaplaincy Team had a wonderful visit to Westminster Cathedral for the Advent Carol Service, joining schools across the diocese. Highlights included a lively Nativity with a donkey and goat, meeting the Angel Gabriel and Angel Penelope, and a beautiful prayer read by Jack from Year 6. It was a truly memorable start to Advent!

### Our Choir spreads Christmas Cheer!

Our Year 3 and 4 choir have been sharing the joy of Christmas this term, singing carols for the residents at Field Place Care Home and for passengers at Luton Airport, bringing festive cheer to travellers on their journeys. This wonderful outreach reflects our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, showing love, service and care for others in our community during the Advent season. We would like to say a huge thank you to our music specialist, Mrs Flatt, for preparing and leading the choir so beautifully.



# School Development Plan Update

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<b>5. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP</b>	<b>Home-School Partnership</b>	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.
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One of the priorities on our 2025-26 School Development Plan is to review our homework system. Thank you to those parents who attended our working party and gave suggestions and feedback. Staff and parents agree that the key aims of homework at SSAS should be to:

- Develop positive learning habits and independence
- Reinforce and consolidate learning
- Prioritise and promote reading for pleasure
- Support key foundation skills
- Prepare pupils gradually for the expectations of secondary education
- Be manageable and supportive for pupils, parents and staff

We will be sharing our new homework policy with you and trialling it next term. Please continue to send in your feedback via [admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk)

## Attendance

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting your child's regular attendance at school this term and ensuring that our attendance remains strong and above the national average.

	<b>Attendance this term</b>	<b>Authorised Absence</b>	<b>Unauthorised Absence</b>	<b>Lates this term</b>
<b>SSAS</b>	96.2%	3.4%	0.47%	1.4%
<b>National</b>	94.6%	3.9%	1.5%	

## Important Dates

- Monday 5th January: INSET Day- school closed to pupils.
- Tuesday 6th January: Pupils return to school.
- Thursday 8th January: Final Prospective Parent Tour  
<https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/joining-our-school/open-mornings-visits/>
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January @9am: EYFS Maths Parent Workshop
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup>-Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January: Mental Health & Wellbeing Week
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January @ 9am: Parent Coffee Morning- Supporting your child with e-safety/ Smartphone-Free School
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January: PTA KS2 Disco
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February: NSPCC Number Day- donate and dress up with a number/pattern theme
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February: PTA Reception & KS1 Disco
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup>-Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February: Racial Justice Week
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February @2.30pm: KS1 Maths Parent Workshop

