



Newsletter

Enjoying and excelling in the presence of God

Friday 9th February 2018

School finishes today for Spring Half Term. I hope everyone has a great break and I look forward to seeing everyone when school reopens on Monday 19th February.

30 Hours (Full time) Nursery Provision

After consultation with parents and meetings with other interested parties, the Governors have decided to trial 30 hours full time Nursery provision next school year. This means that from September 2018, parents who are eligible for 30 hours nursery provision will be able to send their children to our Nursery all day, free of charge. Although there will be necessary paperwork for the parents to complete beforehand. There will also be the opportunity for parents who are not eligible for the free additional hours to pay the school directly for the extra additional session.

I hope to have more details of the changes to Nursery by the end of February. It is important for us that we have as many children as possible in to our Nursery to help with school funding and I would ask parents to inform their friends and other family members about our Nursery and encourage them to come to St Alban's Nursery in September 2018.

First Holy Communion

Our First Holy Communion preparations started in school on Wednesday with a school meeting with Father David. If you are not a Catholic but would still like your child to make their First Holy Communion, then I suggest that you contact Father David or have a chat with him after 10.30 Mass at St Anthony's on Sunday.

Father David also wants to inform parents that Bishop Cunningham will be coming to celebrate Mass at St Anthony's on Sunday 18th February and would like to see as many children and families as possible at Mass that day.

Breakfast and Afterschool Club

I would like to give parents an advanced warning that we will be introducing a cost for Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club after Easter. The actual costs have not been finalised yet, but I want to give parents as much notice as possible about the introduction of charges.

NUFC

Well done to our Year 2 and 3 children that took part in the Family Learning with NUFC. Mr Marshall said all of the children and families had a fantastic time and were a credit to St Alban's. There are some photos on Facebook.



Relationship and Sex Education

We are in the process of reviewing the teaching of Relationship and Sex Education. Like most Catholic Schools, we follow the Diocese recommended programme. I will be sending some information out to parents when we return to school after half term.

Football

Our Year 4 and 5 children were again invited to take part in a football tournament hosted by The Royal Grammar School. It is a real pleasure for our children to be involved. Not only did our children take part they won the competition. Well done Year 4 and 5!

Robinwood

Payments must be made for Robinwood in full before the Year 6 children attend their trip in March.

SATS Dates

Year 6 SATS will take place the week beginning 14th May.

Year 2 tests must take place during May. The children will sit most of their tests during the week beginning 21st May.

Attendance

One of the challenges set by OFSTED was to further improve our school attendance. Some parents will have received letters reminding them about their child's attendance and punctuality.

Some of our absences are down to parents taking holidays within the school term. This is classed as an **unauthorised absence** and can be challenged by the local authority.

The governors are fully aware that the cost of a family holiday rises during school holiday periods and have decided, when looking at holiday times for next year (2018/2019), to only take one week at Easter and two weeks at the end of May. If parents are thinking of taking a holiday in school time, I would ask them to reconsider and look at the end of May.

Now that Governors have given consideration to this they will not look favourably on parents taking children out of school for holidays.

