



St. Alban's Catholic Primary School

Following in the footsteps of Jesus we love, live and learn together'



Headteacher: Mrs R McKinney
Week ending: Friday 9th February 2018



Dear Parents,

This week as a school community we are preparing ourselves for the special season of Lent. Lent is the forty days from Ash Wednesday until Easter. It is a period in which we prepare for Easter including forty days of repentance, with prayer, fasting and abstinence, and Confession.

God, heavenly Father, look upon us and hear our prayers during this holy Season of Lent. Through good works You inspire and help us to be renewed in spirit. Without You we can do nothing. By Your Spirit help us to know what is right. Teach us to find new life through penance. Keep us from sin, and help us live by Your commandment of love. God of love, bring us back to You during this season of Lent. Send Your Spirit to make us strong in faith and active in good works. Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish us with Your Word of life and make us one with You in love and prayer. Amen.

Congratulations Assembly - Monday 12th February at 9.05am. This will be a longer assembly than usual as we will be giving out certificates for the last few weeks.

Reception – Maddison T	Y4 – Lucie T
Y1 – Mae Mc	Y5 – Siobhan C
Y2 - Molly B	Y6 - Natasha K
Y3 – Liam G	

Spotlight on Attendance We are unable to authorise any requests for holidays during term time.

Rec – 95.1% CONCERN	Y4 – 95.6% CONCERN
Y1 – 99.2%	Y5 – 98.2%
Y2 – 92.5% CONCERN	Y6 – 97.5%
Y3 – 98.9%	Overall 96.7%

Y6 Confirmation

On Wednesday evening our Y6 pupils were confirmed by Bishop Robert Byrne. It was a beautiful, prayerful evening and I couldn't have been any prouder of the children. Thank you to all the children for their responsible and mature attitudes that they have had during their preparation and on the evening. We pray that they will continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit as they continue their faith journey. Thanks must also go to Miss Ingram for preparing the children for their Confirmation so thoroughly and guiding them throughout this special time in their lives.



CHANGE OF VENUE Y6 - Thursday 15th February 9.30am Confirmation Celebration Mass at St. Dunstan's Church. Children will need to arrive at school at the normal time and we will take them to St. Dunstan's. Unfortunately our school hall will be out of use on the 15th February in the morning due to unavoidable building works. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. If parents would like to take children directly to St. Dunstan's for the Mass then please inform Miss Ingram or Mrs McKinney.

Year 6 will be having a celebration breakfast on Thursday 22nd January following the thanks giving Mass to celebrate receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Family Activities Many thanks to the 40-something people who took part in the activities about 'Refugees' on the 28th of January. The next event is in the 6th form common room this Sunday (the 11th) after the 10am Mass at St Dunstan's. All are welcome. The theme will be 'Peace' and we'll finish with a 'bring and share' meal (but you're welcome to share even if you don't bring!). For more information contact James (education@columbans.co.uk) or Jane (jlavery@cafod.co.uk).

Y3 First Holy Communion We look forward to seeing you at Mass on Sunday 11th February -First Holy Communion Commitment Mass at St Dunstan's 10am. We would like to invite parents to attend a FHC workshop with their children on Monday 12th February at 3.30pm. Father Simon and Mrs Jones will be leading this session and will talk through First Confession and also further details on dates and times of the First Holy Communion.

Healthy School As you are aware we are a 'Healthy School' and try our best to educate the children in terms of their diet and how to lead a healthy active life. We offer a range of healthy hot lunches that are cooked on site in our school kitchen. If your child brings a packed lunch to school this should not contain any fizzy drinks, chocolate or sweets. For more information take a look at government guidance www.healthylunch.org.uk/government and page 6 of your child's planner. If you send a water bottle in for your child then please can you ensure that it contains water. **No squash or juice**. If your child does bring squash or juice they will be asked to refill their bottle with water. We are currently reviewing our healthy eating guidance and are hoping to achieve the Healthy Schools Award in the future. **The reason that we have had to take the step to request only water during the day for our children is due to a number of factors. The main reason being that we cannot monitor all squash that children bring into school. Many pupils were drinking full sugar squash, juices and energy drinks. These drinks can have a negative effect on pupils' concentration and behaviour in the classroom. This has an impact on all pupils in the classroom. Thank you to all parents who have supported this move and are encouraging their children to drink water during the school day.**



Unavoidable Building Works

Y3 and Y6 children moved back into their newly refurbished classrooms last Thursday. We are delighted that the children are now enjoying the learning environments that they deserve! **Additional funding from the Diocese** has enabled us to complete works to the school building. However, clauses in the funding mean that the money has to be spent by the end of March 2018. This has resulted in the works having to take place during term time. If we could have avoided this at all, we certainly would have. The next phase of the works will be on the staircases and the school hall. Due to the works in the school hall some changes to planned events have been made. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.



Safer Internet Day 2018 Thankyou to Mrs Jones and all staff for organising an informative and interactive day for the pupils. #ItStartsWithUs. The children wrote limericks, created posters and held debates on internet safety. Many children raised concerns about You Tube.

Please see below some guidelines to allow you to enjoy You Tube as a family.

- Have a shared family account for YouTube
- Turn the Safety Mode on
- Vet the content
- Subscribe to channels that you feel comfortable with then create a feed of safe videos
- Watch and enjoy YouTube shows together with your child



- Keep YouTube screens out of bedrooms and in family spaces

For more information and advice: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/youtube-tips-and-tricks-to-keep-your-childrenentertained-and-safe/>

Safeguarding Concern Thank you to parents who came forward with extra information about Roblox. Users who are under 12 can have automatically restricted settings so that only message other users that are accepted as friends on Roblox. You can enable a 2-step verification on your child's account. This feature can be found in their account settings. Parental controls can enable parents to shut off chat capability. Chat controls can also restrict a greater range of words – ensuring that inappropriate language is blocked. For more information please look at www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/roblox

World Book Day Remember it's World Book Day in March! Friday 2nd March (for St. Alban's pupils.) All children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character (or dressed ready for a bedtime story in their pyjamas with a copy of their favourite book.) Please remember that children will be in these costumes all day. Please ensure that sensible footwear is worn.

School Photographs – Wednesday 28th February. Pre-school siblings will be photographed from 8.30am in the school hall. All children will be photographed individually, with siblings if requested and as a whole class.



Y4 and Y5 trip to Stratford As part of the children's Tudor Topic last term the children visited Stratford this week. Unfortunately the trip had to be rearranged last term due to the snow! Jack in Y5 said, "It was the best trip I've ever been on except for when I went to Italy with my family." The children had a marvellous experience at Shakespeare's birthplace and the day finished with a spectacular outdoor performance at the Shakespeare Centre. Thank you to Mr Griffin, Mr Sorroll and all staff who attended the trip.

WE LOVE SCHOOL DAY – Tuesday 13th February



The School Council have planned another exciting day to raise money for our school! Children can come to school wearing red, pink, hearts.



The children can enter pancake races and have the opportunity to try pancakes for £1.

KS2 pupils will be given the opportunity to take over their class for an hour and do some teaching. If they would like to teach their class for 30 mins they need to write a letter to their teacher explaining why they would like to do this by Monday 12th Feb.

In the afternoon pupils will be invited to take part in some school council activities such as decorating hanging hearts, name the teddy, guess the weight of the cake, book tombola, treasure map and much more! Children need to bring along a little spare pocket money to take part in the activities.

Parent Workshops

Please try and come along to the following parent workshops where we will be going through SATS testing preparation for Y2 and Y6 and Phonics screening preparation for Y1.

Wednesday 7th March – Year 2 (SATS Preparation) - 2:30 pm

Tuesday 13th March – Year 6 (SATS Preparation) – 9:05 am

Thursday 15th March – Year 1 (Phonics Preparation) – 2:30 pm

We will also be running Science Inspire Workshops in the Summer Term for all classes – dates to be confirmed.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 11th February: Y3 FHC Commitment Mass at St Dunstan's - 10am
Monday 12th February: Y3 FHC Parent Workshop at 3.30pm
Tuesday 13th February: 'We love school' day – School Council Event
Wednesday 14th February: Ash Wednesday - season of Lent begins 2.00pm 'Ashes' Service and Liturgy of the Word
Thursday 15th February: 9.30am Y6 at St. Dunstan's for Confirmation Celebration Mass
Friday 16th February: School closes for Half-term
Monday 26th February: School reopens at 8:45am
Wednesday 28th February: School Photographs
Thursday 1st March: St David's day - children to wear yellow
Friday 2nd March: World Book Day - dress up as your favourite character from a book
Saturday 3rd March: First Confessions Y3 after Mass at St. Dunstan's
Wednesday 7th March: Year 2 SATS workshop at 2:30pm
Wednesday 7th March: Y4 Shared Lunch - 12pm
Friday 9th March: Reception Mothers' Day Assembly 2.30pm
Monday 12th March: Science week
Tuesday 13th March: Year 6 SATS workshop 9:05am
Wednesday 14th March: Big Bang Fair at the NEC for KS2 classes
Thursday 15th March: Year 1 Phonics workshop at 2:30pm
Friday 16th March: Y1 St. Patrick's Day Assembly 2.30pm
Friday 16th March: PTA St. Patrick's Disco
Friday 23rd March: Y3 Palm Sunday Assembly 2.30pm
Monday 26th March: Brass Concert 2.00pm
Wednesday 28th March: Parents' Evening
Thursday 29th March: Egg Diorama Competition
Thursday 29th March: Rec and KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade – 9.10am
Thursday 29th March: Attendance Assembly– 9.20am
Thursday 29th March: Y5 to lead Stations of the Cross for KS2 - 2pm
Thursday 29th March: School closes for Easter break

Have a super weekend ,

Mrs R McKinney