



# 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 15th December



Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Parents,

The Third Sunday in Advent is Gaudete Sunday, taken from the Latin meaning 'rejoice'. Through her ministry in Jesus' name, Saint Teresa of Calcutta brought untold blessings and joy to the poor who lay unattended and forgotten on our streets. When asked the source of her joy, Saint Teresa replied: "Joy is prayer, joy is strength, joy is love, joy is a net of love. A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love."

I lift my heart up to you, Lord, to thank you for the blessings you shower on me each day. You are the 'joy of my soul.' I know that in your great love, I am held and protected by you. I pray and listen to the good news you send; I ask and feel the healing. I am freed by you from the things in this world that let me hide from you. I rejoice, I rejoice, down to my soul. Help me to prepare my heart to be open and able to receive your immense love. Amen.

**Congratulations Assembly** Parents are welcome to join us at 9.05am for assembly in the school hall.

Reception Aoife Morrin	Y4 Charlie Court
Y1 Katy Adams	Y5 Ava Rabone
Y2 Stanley Putnum	Y6 Makenzy Kane
Y3 Connor Raven	

We will give out last week's certificates on Monday as well.

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

Rec – 97.7%	Y4 – 98.5%
Y1 – 98.0%	Y5 – 98.1%
Y2 – 95.4% Concern	Y6 – 98.2%
Y3 – 95.4% Concern	Overall 97.4%

## Unavoidable Emergency Building Works

We have been awarded some additional funding from the Diocese to complete some emergency works to the school building. This will improve the learning environments in Y3 and Y6 and the school hall! The Y3 and Y6 classes will be disrupted for three weeks as the classrooms are renovated. In order for the works to start promptly we will be breaking up for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 12.00pm. We will also be closed to pupils on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. This will allow time for staff to pack the classrooms, move all the furniture and the work to commence! The children will be taught in the school hall and our additional learning spaces during the building works.



'Sponsored Santa Jog' on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Please can all children come to school wearing suitable jogging bottoms or leggings, trainers and a Christmas jumper and Santa Hat (if available). The children from Y1 upwards will be running a lap of Jasmyn fields (Reception –School grounds).

**K&2 Carol Concert Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm** This carol concert will be held outside (weather permitting) so please wrap up warm and join us for an exciting afternoon. Children will need their coats, hats, scarves and gloves!



**Y1 and Y2 Nativity Wednesday 20th December 2.00pm** Due to limited places in the hall we are going to have to limit the number of family members attending the Nativity. A maximum of 4 members of family per child will be admitted. Tickets will be sent out on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Mass Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** led by staff at **9.15am**. During January due to the building works we will be unable to have Mass in the school hall. Children in Y6 will be able to receive Confession following Mass.

**Attendance Assembly** All children who have 100% attendance for the Autumn Term will be rewarded during a special assembly on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11.00am. Parents are welcome to join us.

**100%**

**Y4 trip to the Synagogue** Apologies that the trip was cancelled we will rearrange this for the new year.



**Y6 trip to 'The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe' at the Crescent Theatre** Miss Ingram said that the performance was 'magical' and the children were 'mesmerised'. I am delighted that the children could see the book come to life. They have been producing some excellent written work following reading the novel in class.

**Y5 ChristMATHS at Bishop Challoner** A group of talented mathematicians have spent the day at Bishop Challoner taking part in a number of exciting challenges. Thank you to our colleagues at Bishop Challoner for organising this fantastic event.

**Brass concert** Children in Y4 and those who play a brass instrument will be performing in a short concert on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm before the Carol Concert.

**The Polar Express** Thankyou to all staff in Y1 and Y2 for organising a special treat for the children. They thoroughly enjoyed it!

**Breakfast with Santa** Thankyou to the PTA for organising this special event and to all families who supported us.

**Reception Nativity** Thank you Mrs Darbinson and Reception for helping us reflect on the true meaning of Christmas this morning. You were superstars!!

**Penitential Service and Confessions** Please try and take your children in Y4, 5 and 6 along to confession during this special season of Advent. St Dunstan's Penitential Service on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm and confession on Saturdays at 11.30am – 12.30pm and 4.45pm – 5.15pm.



**School Uniform Competition** We have had a number of concerns raised over the cost and quality of current uniform from parents. We have also found that there is inconsistency in some pupil's uniform. Therefore following discussions with governors we have decided to review our current school uniform. In January we will be inviting the children to design a new school uniform, keeping the colour and school badge the same. The winning design will be launched from the summer term and will be available to buy from the school office. We will be expecting a period of transition in the school year 2018- 2019. Clive Mark will no longer stock our uniform. We will ensure that costs are kept to a minimum for parents and hope to generate some income for the school.

**Magical Maths** is an afterschool maths programme exclusively for local primary schools. There is an assembly on 9th January at 9.05am, and the afterschool clubs will be for those who choose to book up. There are many new

games and activities so the clubs can be for those who have been before or for those who are coming along for the first time. The club is for 6 weeks and each week lasts for one hour and covers a variety of educational Maths topics in a fun and exciting way. The clubs include some dressed up characters that will visit the schools from week to week, including a maths detective, a maths genius, the mathletes, and a mathemagician. Each week there are three different activities that the children will take part in. These activities are based around mega fun games, puzzles and tricks. The clubs will be on a Wednesday straight after school starting on 10th January and continuing on 17th January, 24th January, 31st January, 7th February and 14th February and cost a total of £39 for the six weeks. There are limited places which are likely to go quickly, so book as soon as you can to avoid disappointment. Book online <https://magicalmathsclub.com/club> or call 0121 314 1236. Get ready for some fun games and activities all using the power of maths!

<p><b>Dates for your diary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Santa Sponsored Jog</li> <li>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Brass Concert -1.30pm</li> <li>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service– 2:00pm</li> <li>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner Day</li> <li>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Card Competition</li> <li>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Panto in school 9.30am</li> <li>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Y1/Y2 Christmas Production 2.00pm</li> <li>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Attendance Assembly</li> <li>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day – bring a £1 donation.</li> <li>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Break up for Christmas at 12.00pm</li> </ul> <p>God Bless,</p> <p>Mrs R McKinney</p>	<p><b><u>TERM DATES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Closed: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 12.00pm to allow for building works to start</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Closed: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – Due to unavoidable building works.</u></b></p> <p><b>SPRING TERM 2018</b>  Open: Tuesday 9th January  Close: Friday 16th February  Open: Monday 26th February  Close: Thursday 29th March</p> <p><b>SUMMER TERM 2018</b>  Open: Monday 16th April  Close: Friday 25th May  Open: Monday 4th June  Close: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July</p> <p><b><u>Teacher Training Days</u></b>  <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017</b>  <b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018</b>  <b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018</b></p>
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