



St. Alban's Catholic Primary School

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



Acting Headteacher: Mr N Emery
Week ending: 7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff at St. Alban's, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all back. I feel extremely privileged to be given this opportunity to support and guide the families and children of St. Alban's during 2018-19 in the absence of Mrs Mckinney whilst she is on maternity leave. This week has shown me what a fantastic school we have here at St. Alban's. It has been a joy to be greeted with happy, smiling faces this week on the school gate which continues to remind me why St. Alban's is such a special place to work. I would also like to thank the staff team at St. Alban's for their support in helping me to settle into my new role as the Acting Headteacher. Together with the support of our families we will continue to enjoy watching the children of St. Alban's flourish as they embark on a new journey this academic year.

Congratulations Assembly - Please join us for assembly at 9.05am on Monday 10th September.

	Y4 Caolan Mc
Y1 Thomas S	Y5 Conor M
Y2 Mae Mc	Y6 Ava Marie Mc
Y3 Isabel L	

Spotlight on Attendance We are unable to authorise any requests for holidays during term time. Please call the office by 9.15am if your child is unwell and unable to attend school.

	Y4 95% Concern
Y1 94.8% Concern	Y5 95.6% Concern
Y2 100% Well Done	Y6 97.8%
Y3 97.7%	Overall 96.8%

Spotlight on Attendance We are unable to authorise any requests for holidays during term time. Taking holidays during term time is an unauthorised absence and really affects our whole school attendance. Any child whose attendance falls below 95% in the first half term will be required to attend a meeting with Mr Emery.

New Uniform Many thanks to all parents for sending the children back to school so smartly dressed. The children look great in their new uniform. Thank you for bearing with us while we establish our new systems in the school office when ordering uniform. We hope to have replenished our stocks of jumpers and book bags by the end of next week. Please can you make sure ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM IS LABELLED! A number of children have returned to school wearing earrings please can I remind you that **earrings are not permitted** at school. Thank you for also supporting us with sending children into school with book bags rather than big school bags. This has made a big difference to the cloakrooms freeing up lots of space.

Mrs Mckinney Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Mckinney. On Monday 27th August they welcomed Ailbe Mckinney into the world. We send our wishes and prayers to Mrs Mckinney and her family at this very special time. If you haven't had the opportunity to see a picture of Ailbe yet please see our Twitter feed.

Mrs Birdi We warmly welcome Mrs Birdi to our team and family at St. Alban's. Mrs Birdi will be working alongside Mrs Thompson in the school office.

Healthy Eating As part of our Healthy School agenda from Monday 10th September we will be asking children on lunches to refrain from bringing crisps in their lunch boxes. For ideas on healthy lunch boxes please see the following link: <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>



Cut down on crisps

If your child really likes their crisps try reducing the number of times you include them in their lunchbox and swap for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead.

Family Support Worker We are delighted to have Mrs Docherty as our Family Support Worker. Please see a message from her below:

Hello everyone!! I'm Celine Doherty, St. Alban's Child & Family Support Worker. I work four days a week, Tuesday-Friday. I am based in the community room (formerly the old staffroom). This is a room for parents, pupils and families to use. I aim to support families in different ways: listening and appreciating parent issues and offering suggestions and advice for individuals and families. I can also sign post families to other services available within Birmingham and Solihull. I will be support children on a 1:1 basis, listening and working with them in different ways:

- *Anger management and control*
- *Key transitions, including moving between schools/classes*
- *Development of pupil self-esteem and confidence*
- *Friendship issues / bullying, including social networking*
- *Family issues: bereavement, new baby in the family, parent's separation / divorce.*

I look forward to working with you and your children this year.

A gentle reminder Please refrain from opening the school front gate in the morning. It will be opened at 8:45am

This week

Gospel Virtues During this half-term our focus will be: Compassionate and Loving. We will be encouraging children to show how they can show compassion and love to one another just like the Good Samaritan.

House Teams We have recently changed our school house teams to St. Andrew, St. David, St. George and St. Patrick. These were chosen by Year 5 at the end of last year.

Faith Friends Meeting It was great to witness the coming together of our classes this week as children met up with their new faith friends. I'm sure these new faith friends will continue to support each other spiritually throughout this year.

Transition meetings

Thank you to parents in Y1, Y2 and Y6 for attending transition meetings this week. We look forward to the remaining meetings next week. The meetings are a chance for you to meet your child's new teacher and also to find out new expectations for their year group and the long term curriculum overview.

Monday 10th September – Y3 – 2pm
Tuesday 11th September – Y4 – 9am
Wednesday 12th September – Y5 – 9am

Planners Your child will have received their new planners. Please can you ensure that you sign the planner daily when they have completed their home reading. (Planners must be signed in order for your child to receive a golden stamp.) Please use the planner as a tool for communicating any celebrations or concerns with your child's class teacher.

Home Visits Reception Mrs Darbinson and Mrs Rabone had the opportunity this week to meet our new families and children that will be joining us next week. We ask God to support our new families as they embark on a new journey at St. Alban's

Coming Up

Diocesan participation in the Adoremus Many of you will be aware that schools have been asked to save the date of Tuesday 11th September for a very special event. As part of our Diocesan participation in Adoremus: The Eucharistic Congress, the Archbishop wants to invite all Primary schools to participate in a short time of Adoration with him. This event is being livestreamed from his private chapel on the afternoon of Tuesday 11th September which will begin at 2pm. We will be coming together as a school to take part in this unique event and would welcome any parents to join us.

Times table competition children will be taking part in the fortnightly times table competition on Friday 14th September. Please support your children in learning their times tables. Year 1 and Year 2 will need to practise their 2 x tables. Year 3 will be going back over their 2x, 5x 10x and Year 4 to Year 6 will need to make sure they are up to speed with their 6 x tables.

50 years old Some of you may be aware that St. Alban's will be celebrating it's 50th birthday during 2019. We look forward to celebrating this golden event throughout 2019. If you have any old photos or ideas of how we could celebrate please speak with Mr. Emery.

Masses at St. Alban's

Thursday 13 th September	9:15am	Prayer Service at St. Alban's	Y5	Deacon David
Tuesday 18 th September	10am	Mass at St. Jude's	Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	
Thursday 27 th September	9:15am	Prayer Service at St. Alban's	Y6	Deacon David
Thursday 4 th October	9:15am	Mass at St. Alban's	Y4	
Thursday 11 th October	9:15am	Prayer Service at St. Alban's	Y3	Deacon David
Thursday 18 th October	9:15am	Mass at St. Alban's	Y6	
Thursday 25 th October	9:15am	Mass at St. Alban's	Y5	

Wow Day Children and staff in Year 1 to Year 6 are looking forward to beginning their new topic on Monday. Please remember you do not have to go to the trouble of purchasing new outfits. Why not have some fun and make these outfits with your child or if you run out of time they can finish them in class.

Year Group	Topic	Novel – English Focus	Wow Day
Y1	Paws, Claws and Whiskers	Y1 'The Fox and the star' by Coralie Bickford-Smith	Children need to be in school uniform but if you have an apron at home please send this in as they'll be making
Y2	Towers, Tunnels and Turretts	Y2 'Rapunzel' by Sarah Gibb	Dress up as a Knight/Princesses or a

Y3		Y3 'Knights and Castles' by Anna Milbourne	castle. Wear a crown
Y4	I am Warrior	Y4 'Romans on the Rampage' by Jeremy Strong	Dress up as a Roman or Celt
Y5		Y5 'Defenders: Dark Arena' by Tom Palmer	
Y6	Frozen Kingdom	Y6 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' C.S. Lewis	Dress as though you are boarding the Titanic

After School clubs Please note the majority of Sports Clubs will begin w/b 10th September except for the cooking club and AVFC club which will resume the week commencing the 17th September.

	Club	Provider	Contact
Monday	Drama	Class Act Theatrix	Ash 07540591130
Tuesday	Dance	Stardust	Carla 07957 283608
Wednesday	Gym	Stardust	Carla 07957 283608

Rock Steady Music The team from Rock Steady Music will be back in on Friday 14th September to provide workshop sessions for children that have signed up.

Y3 Swimming will begin their swimming lessons on Tuesday 11th September up until Thursday 25th October.

Kind regards,

Mr Emery

St. Alban's Autumn Term Diary Dates	
Monday 10 th September	Reception class to begin (morning group and afternoon group)
Monday 10 th September 2pm	Y3 Transition Meeting
Tuesday 11 th September 9am	Y4 Transition Meeting
Tuesday 11 th September 2pm	Live Broadcast from Archbishop Bernard's chapel – Adoration and Benediction
Wednesday 12 th September 9am	Y5 Transition Meeting
Wednesday 12 th September	School Council Elections
Tuesday 18 th September 3:30pm	Cookery Club to begin
Wednesday 19 th September	Open Evening at Bishop Challoner
Friday 21 st September 1:45pm	Reception welcome service
Thursday 27 th September 7pm	PTA meeting (all parents welcome)
Friday 28 th September 9:15am	MacMillan Coffee morning
Monday 1 st October	Little Way week in school
Tuesday 6 th October	Y6/Y5 Benediction at St Jude's
Friday 5 th October	Cafod Family Fast Day
Friday 12 th October 2:30pm	Alton Castle Meeting
Friday 19 th October 2:30pm	Black History Month Assembly
Monday 22 nd October –	Y6 Residential to Alton Castle

Wednesday 24 th October	
Thursday 25 th October	School closed for October Half-Term at 3:15pm
Friday 26 th October	Teacher Day – School Closed
Monday 5 th November	School reopens at 8:45am
Tuesday 6 th November	Y4 to begin swimming
Tuesday 6 th November 9:15am	St Alban's Open day
Tuesday 6 th November	Y6/5 Benediction at St. Jude's
Wednesday 7 th November 12pm	Y1 Shared Lunch
Friday 9 th November 2:30pm	Remembrance Sunday Assembly
Monday 12 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 12 th November	Parliament Week
Monday 12 th November 2pm	St. Alban's Open Day
Friday 16 th November 2:30pm	Anti-Bullying Assembly
Friday 30 th November 2:30pm	Advent Assembly – Christmas Around the World
Tuesday 4 th December	Y6/5 Benediction at St. Jude's
Friday 7 th December 2:30pm	Advent Assembly – Christmas Around the World
Friday 14 th December 2:30pm	Advent Assembly – Christmas Around the World
Monday 17 th December 2:15pm	KS2 Carol Singing in the Gaezbo
Tuesday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Wednesday 19 th December	Christmas Card Competition
Wednesday 19 th December 2:15pm	Y1/2 Nativity
Thursday 20 th December 9:30am	Reception Nativity
Friday 21 st December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 21 st December 9:15am	Attendance Assembly
Friday 21 st December	School closes at 3:15pm for Christmas Holidays