



St Alban's Catholic Primary School, Walker



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Headteacher: Mrs C Yeoman

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a successful week we have had at St Alban's! It has been lovely to meet many of you on the yard at the beginning and end of the day. We are also working to ensure that teaching and support staff are visible during these times to help strengthen communication.

This week, our pupils have enjoyed a range of activities and experiences:

- Year 5 and Year 6 took part in Forest School, learning about trees and autumn as part of their science topic.
- Year 5 also took part in Bikeability – a fantastic opportunity for pupils to build confidence and learn essential cycling and road safety skills.
- Year 4 children preparing for their First Holy Communion met with Fr Jonathon for the first time. We keep them and their families in our prayers as they prepare for this special sacrament. Their first Mass will take place this weekend at St Theresa's Church.
- We have also received information from Sacred Heart Secondary and St Mary's regarding Year 7 open evenings. We will share these dates with you separately.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be a huge focus of our work to ensure we provide a safe environment for all children. We are working with The Ivison Trust, a national charity that helps protect children from exploitation. They are offering free parent webinars during September, providing support and guidance on criminal exploitation, with a focus on *county lines*.

In these sessions, you will:

- Learn what county lines is
- Understand what is happening locally
- Learn how exploiters groom children
- Recognise signs that your child might be at risk
- Know where to access support and advice

You can sign up here: [Parent webinars - county lines and criminal exploitation - Ivison Trust](#)

Contact Details

As we start a new academic year, please ensure the school office has your up-to-date phone numbers, email addresses, and emergency contacts. If any details have changed over the summer, please contact us as soon as possible.

Looking Ahead

- Year 4 Residential – Next week, Year 4 will be heading to the Youth Village in Consett for their residential. We wish them a successful and enjoyable trip!
- As we move into the colder and wetter months, please ensure that all children bring a coat to school (waterproof if possible). This helps us make the most of our outdoor time, whatever the weather. As an OPAL school, our lunchtimes are designed to be rich in play and exploration. OPAL (*Outdoor Play and Learning*) promotes creative, inclusive, and active play, helping children develop important life skills. It's been fantastic to see how enthusiastic and engaged the children are during these sessions every day.



Forest School – Years 5 & 6

A reminder that Forest School takes place on Monday afternoons for Years 5 and 6. Children will need old clothes and suitable footwear (waterproof where possible). Photos from last week's session are now on the school blog and Facebook page. Everyone had a brilliant time and is already looking forward to next week! Please remember to send in old clothes and shoes for your child to change into.

PE & Sports

We are delighted to share that Gary Marshall, our PE specialist, will continue to deliver PE lessons, sports sessions, and after-school clubs this term. We're also very excited that our new table tennis table is currently being built and will soon be on the yard for the children to enjoy. A huge thank you to everyone who helped raise money for this fantastic addition to our playground.

We will also be running a parent and child sports club to help support the benefits of physical activity and strengthen positive relationships. More details will follow soon!

Focus on Vocabulary

This term, we are placing a strong focus on vocabulary development. We will soon be inviting parents and carers into lessons to see first-hand how we support pupils with their language and communication skills.

Communication and Support

If you ever have any concerns regarding your child or their experience at school, we kindly ask that you follow this process:

1. First, speak directly with your child's class teacher, who knows them best day-to-day.
2. If the issue remains unresolved, please speak with the relevant Key Stage Leader:
 - o Mrs Duncan – for Early Years, Year 1, and Year 2
 - o Mrs Allan – for Years 3, 4, 5, and 6
3. If you still feel your concern has not been fully addressed, please do not hesitate to contact myself directly.

We are always here to listen and work with you in the best interest of your child.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Yeoman

Headteacher