



St Alban's Catholic Primary School, Walker

**Address:**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Celebrations and Updates

It's been a busy seven weeks with lots to celebrate! This week, our Year 5 and 6 football teams began their journey in the Bishop's Cup and successfully progressed to the next round – well done to all involved! We also held another successful parents' evening and will be sending out a questionnaire soon to gather your valuable feedback. Year 3 had their English Café which was well attended and received lots of positive feedback.

OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning

We are very much on our OPAL journey, and feedback from parents and carers has been great. Many have shared that we are successfully teaching children the value of play. We would like to invite all parents and carers to a special Parent and Play session on Thursday November 20th at 2:30 pm. This will be a fantastic opportunity to explore our enhanced play offer and enjoy some quality playtime with your child.

Wellie Amnesty and Weather Preparedness

As the weather turns, we are launching a Wellie Amnesty. If you have any spare wellies, please donate them to the school office. Also, please ensure your child comes to school dressed in weatherproof clothing every day to keep them comfortable through the changing weather.

No Bells Week Trial

Next week, we will be trailing a 'No Bells Week' during the school day in response to pupil feedback that the school bells are too loud. We hope this will help create a calmer environment around school. Please note that the bell at the beginning and the end of the day will remain.

Nursery and Reception Drop-off

After half term, Nursery and Reception children will be dropped off at the wooden gate to help with their transition into school. I also ask Nursery parents to please ensure that children do not play with the bikes at the end of the day when picking up, to keep everyone safe.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Our Purple Treat event will take place this Thursday afternoon. Please ask your children what exciting activities they have planned in class.

Year 5 and 6 will be visiting Beamish next week. Please refer to the information sent out by class teachers regarding what to bring. Reminder letters will also be sent soon.

Forest School and Volunteers

Forest School sessions for Years 3 and 4 will start next half term. These sessions offer wonderful outdoor learning experiences. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for all weathers. We are still looking for volunteers to help clear the forest areas to enable full use of the site—if you can help, please contact the office.

Fundraising and Charity

Next week, St Aidan's Spina Biffa fundraiser will be taking place, with all proceeds being donated to the cause.

Christmas Fayre and PTA

Christmas is coming, and we are delighted to announce that the Christmas Fayre will return this year in the school hall on Thursday 11th December. After listening to your feedback, we know how important this event is to our school community, and we're excited to bring it back as a festive evening of fun and togetherness. There will be lots to enjoy including a tombola, raffle with festive hampers, performances of Christmas carols by our pupils, craft stalls, and delicious cakes and treats.

If you would like to support the school by joining our newly established Parent Teacher Association (PTA), please speak to Mrs Hill, who is coordinating the event. We welcome volunteers to help with stalls, donations, or general assistance on the day.

School Meals on Arbor

Finally, a reminder about school meals on Arbor. After half term, please remember to manually select your child's meal choices each week, as Arbor no longer allows repeating orders and choices are not saved. To ensure the kitchen can order food on time, choices should be submitted by Wednesday lunchtime each week. Even if your child has packed lunch, please still complete the meal choice form in Arbor. If you need to amend choices before the deadline, please follow the process outlined on Arbor or contact the school office if you experience any difficulties.

Parent Code of Conduct Reminder

We would also like to remind parents and carers of our Parent Code of Conduct, which is available on the school website. We expect all members of our community to uphold respectful and positive communication. Defamatory, offensive, or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils, parents, or staff on social media sites will not be tolerated.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Kind regards,

Mrs Yeoman