



St Albans Catholic Primary School, Walker



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Welcome Back

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school refreshed, enthusiastic and ready to learn. Everyone has settled back into routines quickly, and classrooms have been full of smiles and hard work. What a fantastic first week back it has been!

Reception and Year 6 Buddy Liturgy – 6th November

Our Reception and Year 6 Buddy Liturgy took place on Wednesday 6th November. It was a lovely celebration that brought our school community together in reflection and prayer. The liturgy provided a beautiful opportunity for our oldest pupils to demonstrate their leadership and care, supporting our youngest children as they continue to settle into school life. We are so proud of the positive relationships developing between our Reception and Year 6 buddies.

Year 5 English Café Success

Year 5 held a very successful English Café this week, where parents were invited into the classroom to take part in lessons. The children showcased their speaking and writing skills through a range of fun and interactive activities. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to share learning, practise conversation, and celebrate the progress the pupils have made in English. It was a wonderful morning filled with enthusiasm, teamwork, and pride!

Children in Need – 14th November

We are excited to be supporting Children in Need this year. On Thursday 14th November, we will be holding a Pyjama Day! Children are invited to come to school wearing their pyjamas (please ensure they are suitable for the school day and weather) and to bring a chocolate bar donation. These donations will be combined to create chocolate hampers, which will be auctioned at our upcoming Christmas Fayre.

Opal Parent Play – Rescheduled

Our Opal Parent Play session, originally scheduled for Thursday 20th November, will now take place in January. This change is due to the large number of exciting events already taking place this term. We will confirm the new date before the end of term and look forward to welcoming parents to join in play sessions that highlight the importance of outdoor play and creativity in children's development.

Christmas Fayre – 11th December

Our Christmas Fayre will take place on Wednesday 11th December and promises to be a fantastic festive event for all the family. There will be games, stalls, refreshments, and plenty of Christmas cheer! To help us prepare, there will be a non-uniform day on Thursday 28th November. On this day, children can come to school out of uniform in exchange for a donation for the Fayre stalls. More information about what to donate and how to get involved will be shared shortly. We really appreciate your continued support with events like these, which help raise funds for additional school resources and experiences for our pupils.

If any parents or carers would like to join the Parent Teacher Association, we will be holding a meeting next Thursday at **2:45 pm** in school. The meeting will be led by **Mrs Hill**, and everyone is very welcome to attend.

Year 3 and 4 Forest School

Our Year 3 and 4 pupils continue to take part in Forest School sessions each week. These sessions encourage teamwork, problem-solving, and a love of nature while helping children develop confidence and resilience. Please ensure your child has suitable clothing for outdoor activities, including waterproofs, warm layers, and wellies. We do have a small selection of waterproof clothing in school, but we encourage pupils to bring their own if possible. These sessions will continue whatever the weather, so being prepared helps ensure the children can make the most of the experience.

Lego League Grant

We are delighted to announce that our school has successfully secured a grant to establish the *Lego League* programme. This initiative introduces children to robotics, engineering, and coding through hands-on, creative activities using Lego. This week, pupils in Year 4 and Year 6 took part in their first Lego sessions, learning how to design and build using technology to solve real-world problems. We are excited to see this programme inspire teamwork, curiosity and innovation across our school.

Parent Feedback

In December, we will be inviting parents to share their thoughts through a school-wide feedback survey. This will be an opportunity for you to tell us what you feel is working well and to suggest any areas for improvement. Your views are extremely valuable to us and help shape how we continue to develop and improve the learning experiences and environment we provide for all our pupils.

Anti-Bullying Week – Starting 10th November

Next week marks Anti-Bullying Week, a national initiative that focuses on promoting kindness, respect, and inclusion. Throughout the week, children will take part in lessons and activities that explore positive relationships, different types of bullying, and strategies for preventing and responding to unkind behaviour.

The theme this year encourages everyone to make a difference by speaking up and showing kindness in everyday actions.

To launch the week and celebrate individuality, we will be holding an *Odd Socks Day* on Monday 10th November. All children are invited to wear odd socks alongside their school uniform to remind us that it is our differences that make us special.

Remembrance Day – 9th November

As we approach Remembrance Day on Sunday 9th November, we will be taking time as a school to remember our own loved ones who have died. This year, we will have a *Book of Remembrance* displayed in our school entrance area. We will be sending home remembrance slips. If you would like to write an entry for the book, please return the completed slip to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Families are welcome to complete more than one slip, and you may choose to write a prayer, poem, comment, or even include a drawing. The Book of Remembrance will remain on display throughout the month of November.

Arbor Lunches

Thank you to all families who are using Arbor to book school lunches. We appreciate your patience as we continue to make the process as smooth as possible. Please remember to book your child's lunch choices at least 24 hours in advance. You can also book meals up to four weeks ahead, which can be helpful for planning. Your cooperation helps us ensure the kitchen team can prepare and serve meals efficiently each day.

Christmas Performances

We are delighted to announce the dates for our Christmas performances this year and are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to share in the joy of these festive celebrations.

	Monday 8th Dec	Tuesday 9th Dec	Wednesday 10th Dec	Thursday 11th Dec
AM	Year 5 and 6	EYFS	Year 3 and 4	Year 1 and 2
PM	EYFS	Year 3 and 4	Year 1 and 2	Year 5 and 6

Upcoming Dates

- Year 6 English Café – 13th November
- Children in Need – 14th November
- Reception English Café – 20th November

- Nursery Café – 27th November
- Christmas Fayre – Wednesday 11th December 3.30pm

Warm regards,
Mrs Yeoman