



St Alban's Catholic Primary School, Walker



Address:

Westbourne Avenue
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 4HQ
United Kingdom

Telephone: 0191 262 5552

Email: office@stalbansnewcastle.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs C Yeoman

Dear parents and carers

It has been another fantastic week at St Albans. The sun has been shining and the children have really enjoyed making the most of the warmer weather and playing outside at lunchtime.

OPAL Play

We continue to review and develop our OPAL play provision at lunchtime, with the aim of giving children a wide range of opportunities to play, explore, create and use their imagination.

We would be very grateful for any donations of items that could support our play provision, such as boxes, crates, tubes, buckets, containers, dressing-up clothes, fabric or other safe items that children could use creatively. If you have anything at home that you think might be useful, please send it into school.

A Change in the Weather

As the weather begins to get a little cooler, please make sure your child brings a suitable coat to school each day. We want the children to continue to enjoy being outdoors at lunchtime whatever the weather.

Morning Drop-Off Arrangements

A reminder that the school gates open at 8:30am, with the school doors opening at 8:40am for the start of the school day. We ask that parents and carers remain with their children and supervise them until the doors open. Although staff begin coming onto the yard at 8:40am, children remain the responsibility of their parents and carers until they are able to enter the school building. This helps us to ensure that all children are safe and appropriately supervised at the start of the day. Please also be reminded that the school field must not be used before the start of the school day. We will be securing the gate with a lock to help reinforce this. This is an important safety measure to prevent accidents and ensure that children are not playing on the field without appropriate supervision. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping us keep all our children safe.

Reading at Home

Reading at home continues to be really important in supporting your child's learning and development. We ask that you try to spend some time reading with your child regularly, even if it is only for a short period each day.

This could include your child reading to you, you reading to your child, or sharing a book together and talking about what you have read. Asking questions about the characters, what might happen next, new vocabulary and your child's thoughts about the story can all help to develop their understanding and enjoyment of reading.

Please remember to make a note in your child's reading journal when you have read together. This helps us to see the reading that is taking place at home and allows us to celebrate the children's progress and encourage them to keep reading.



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Thank you for your continued support with this -regular reading really does make a difference.

Outdoor Education – Year 6

We are looking forward to developing our Outdoor Education offer, which we will be introducing with our Year 6 pupils. This will provide exciting opportunities for children to learn, develop new skills and enjoy learning outdoors.

We will share more information about our plans and what this will look like for the children at the upcoming parents' evening. We will keep Year 6 families updated as the plans develop and look forward to sharing more with you soon.

Please Keep Our School Gates Clear

A reminder to please take extra care when parking and dropping off around the school gates. It is really important that the gates and access points are kept clear so that children, families and staff can enter and leave school safely.

We are doing our best to put cones out where we can and are working in conjunction with our local parking team to make the area around the school as safe as possible.

Please continue to share any feedback or concerns with us if you notice something that could be improved. We really appreciate your support in helping us keep the school gates and surrounding area safe for everyone.

Parents' Evening Reminder

Just a reminder that parents' evening appointments are coming up next week and the following week. Appointments are available to book through Arbor, so please make sure you book a slot if you haven't already.

An Update from Our School Counsellor

Hello, I'm Kayleigh, the counsellor working with children at St. Albans Primary School. Counselling offers children a safe, supportive space to talk about their feelings and work through any worries or difficulties they may be experiencing. Children don't need to have a big problem to benefit from having someone to talk to.

Growing up can be challenging, and children may experience friendship difficulties, changes at home, worries, anxiety, low confidence, anger or big emotions that they find difficult to understand or express. Sometimes these feelings can show through their behaviour, by becoming quieter, getting upset more easily or struggling to concentrate.

Through counselling, I provide children with a safe and welcoming space where they can explore their feelings at their own pace. This might involve talking, playing games, drawing or taking part in activities, depending on what feels most comfortable for them.

My aim is to help children better understand their feelings, build confidence, develop positive coping strategies and feel supported when things are difficult.

If you feel your child might benefit from counselling, please contact the school to find out more.



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We hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy some well-deserved family time. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school next week!

Mrs Yeoman