St Alban's Catholic Primary School, Walker

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Headteacher: Mrs C Yeoman

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's the end of our first week in November. November – how did we get here so fast? On Monday, in Celebration of the Word, the children were reminded of the Gospel reading that was shared at Sunday's Mass This was 'The Beatitudes'.

From this Gospel reading, each child was set a challenge. They were asked to think out ways in which they could bring happiness to others and then carry out those actions. Today those actions were celebrated in Celebration Assembly! It was wonderful to see so many gorgeous acts of kindness from the children towards others.

Children in Need – Friday 13th November In order to support the work of this very worthwhile charity, we would like to mark the day by the children coming into school in their pyjamas! Please don't feel you need to buy new ones and there is no need to buy the branded Children in Need ones.

We will host an afternoon juice and cake sale. For the cost of £1, each child can enjoy a cake and a cup of juice. If a child wants to take cakes home, surplus cakes will be sold at 50p each. All funds will be given to Children in Need.

Any donations of cakes for this sale will be gratefully received!

Christmas Fayre Donation Day Friday 27th November: In exchange for coming to school in non-uniform, your child will be given the opportunity to bring a donation of a gift or a bottle for the Christmas Fayre. These donations will used to raise funds on the actual day which is Thursday 10th December at 3:30 – 4:30pm

Glass bottles will be collected by adults on the gates that day.

Upcoming Football News

On the 26th November at 4pm, it is the second round of the **Girls'** East League cup at Benfield School. Our **boys** have their first match of the Dale League Cup at Benfield on the 19th November. Mr Marshall will give more information closer to the dates

Toys from Home

Just a reminder to please continue to reinforce the 'no toys from home' rule. As we said in the last newsletter, we have been experiencing a problem around toys being brought to school from home. This causes a variety of issues in school.

Athletics

A message from Andy Cockerill, who organised the inter- school athletics event at the end of last half term.

We wanted to say a huge thank you for coming along to our first ever Y3/4 Sportshall Athletics Events, and for making them such a great atmosphere. We hope that your children who took part enjoyed the experience and having a go at some new activities! We will get some certificates out to the podium's finishers in due course. All the hard work during PE sessions and extra practice clubs really paid off on the day. The team showed fantastic ***resilience, determination,*** *and* ***teamwork*** *from start to finish. The sportsmanship was outstanding all afternoon; the children cheered for each other and respected competitors from other schools.*

Here are the final results from across the two days:

Position	School	Points
1st	Hotspur	478
2nd	West Jesmond	468
3rd	St Alban's	456
4th	St Teresa's	446
5th	Newcastle Prep	440
6th	Grange	432
7th	South Gosforth	428
8th	St Paul's	416
9th	Archbishop Runcie	354
10th	Throckley	328

Well done St. Albans!!!

Latecomers

Once again, we continue to thank you so much for complying with the new **late to school** arrangements.

Year 6 Outdoor adventure

As a school, we always want to consider ways in which we can further expand children's education. Behind the scenes, Mrs Yeoman has been working with an outdoor specialist to enhance our 'Outdoor Education' offer. This week a group of Year 6 children were the first cohort to benefit. Here is the newsletter that was created from this week's experience.

St Alban's Primary School Explorer's Chronicle

Outdoor Adventures | Date: 02 November 2026

Splash! Year 6 Conquers Cong Burn and Riverside Park!

Our young adventurers set off from school at **09:40** for a fantastic, hands-on day of geography, engineering, and teamwork. The trip scored an absolute **10 out of 10** (and an incredible **100 out of 10** from some of our pupils!), with everyone wishing they could have stayed in the water just a little bit longer!

Our first stop was **Cong Burn** for an immersive stream walk. The children did not just walk through nature—they actively shaped it. They spent an hour and a half learning exactly how rivers are formed. Ask your children if they can tell you what a *tributary* is! (Hint: It's a freshwater stream that feeds into a larger river).

At **11:30**, the team moved on to **Riverside Park** to refuel with a lovely picnic, explore the grounds, and enjoy an energetic game of tag.

Spotlights on Our Mini-Teams

Our pupils showed incredible teamwork, creativity, and imagination throughout the day, naturally splitting into specialized project groups:

- **The Bridge Builders:** Freddie, Jenson, and Ted combined their engineering minds to construct a bridge across the stream. To everyone's delight, it was incredibly sturdy, and the whole group took turns testing their balance to walk across it!
- **The Bug Home Creators:** Mia, Emma, and Thea put their imaginations to work for a great cause. They designed and built a cozy, protective shelter to keep the local insects safe and dry from the rain.
- **The Beaver Dam Crew:** Jin and Joe teamed up for some environmental construction, building a brilliant imaginary dam to help local beavers catch fish.

Advice for Future Explorers

If your child is heading out on our next wet and windy expedition, our Year 6 adventurer experts highly recommend packing the following gear to stay warm and dry:

- 🧥 A much warmer coat
- 🥾 Long wellies (essential for puddle splashing!)
- 🧤 A warm hat and gloves

We leave you with a wonderful piece of advice from Joe for anyone facing a deep puddle or a difficult challenge: **"If you are walking in the puddles and you are not ready, just believe in yourself!"**,

Who's who at St Albans: The Newbies!

Year 6: Mr Moore

Mr Moore – Year 6 Teacher & Maths Lead

Before entering the classroom, my career took a slightly different path! After leaving school, I trained in Musical Theatre, which led to a wonderful career as a dancer on cruise ships. Travelling the world was an incredible experience. My absolute favourite stops were Split in Croatia for its amazing history and food, and Aruba for its beaches! Over time, my role on board evolved, and I worked as Guest Relations Manager and eventually Hotel Operations Manager.

However, having always loved my time as a dance teacher, I decided to make the switch to primary education. I returned to university to complete my degree in Performance and Primary Teaching in Glasgow.

Because the performing arts are so close to my heart, I love bringing drama, singing, and dance into school life. I've already set up an after-school dance club for our younger pupils, and I'm excited to roll this out across all year groups throughout the year.

Having taught in Scotland previously, I'm thrilled to bring those experiences to St Albans. I've seen firsthand the hugely positive impact of outdoor learning on young people, so I am particularly excited that we are now offering outdoor learning provision to our Year 6 class.

At the heart of why I teach is a desire to foster strong, positive relationships with the children in my care. My main goal is for every child to believe in themselves and build a true "I can do it" attitude towards both their learning and life in general.

I've also recently taken on the role of Maths Lead across the school. I'm deeply passionate about bringing the latest research and teaching approaches into our classrooms, especially because maths didn't always come naturally to me as a child! With persistence and the right mindset, I truly believe every child can succeed.
Teaching Year 6 is a genuine privilege. It's a chance to ensure the children have a memorable, joyful final year at primary school while giving them the confidence and skills they need for their transition to secondary school.
Thank you to the whole St Albans community for such a warm welcome. I look forward to supporting you and your children throughout the year!
Mr Moore

Have a great week everyone. Look forward to seeing you on Monday!