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

Friday 20th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that your week has went well and that you get some rest this weekend.

We know that this is the season of coughs and sneezes but please remember the importance of children being in school. Schools are always working hard to keep attendance figures high as we know the importance of a child attending school every day.

Dojos - Our Reward System

Over the last few weeks, we have been trying out a new reward system and it has worked so well we have decided to keep it. It is called ClassDojo – Dojos for short!

Children can receive a Dojo for keeping to the school rules and showing acts of gorgeous behaviour towards others. As you can imagine, a lot of Dojos have been handed out! Any adult in school can give a Dojo. In Celebration Assembly, on a Friday, certificates are given to children which acknowledge the work that the children have put in to achieve their Dojos.

Council and Cars

A couple of parents asked us about the presence of some adults holding clipboards outside of school, before half-term. The adults were from the Council and they were making observations of traffic between our school and Sir Charles Parson's School. They will make a return visit. Some parents have raised concerns to us about the speed of traffic outside of school as well as some inconsiderate parking. Please remember to park mindfully around the school neighbourhood.

Fr Jonathan Visits

Fr Jonathan met with staff this week, to plan a series of school visits. In addition to school Masses, the First Holy Communion Programme and monthly prayers for staff, Fr Jonathan will be making planned visits across all classrooms. We appreciate how busy his schedule is and are grateful for the support that he offers the whole school community.

Football News

Our St Albans boys are currently sitting at the top of the league after winning all THREE games against Byker Primary, Central Walker and Tyneview! A huge well done to our goal scorers, Ollie & Jenson! Every single player played their part in these fantastic wins. For their first games of the season, the boys played amazingly as a team, showing brilliant passing, strong defending and great teamwork throughout. A special mention to our goalie Elliott, who pulled off some fantastic saves! Brilliant attitudes, determination and teamwork all round. We couldn't be prouder of every single one of our St Albans boys!

Roll on the next round of the Dale League in February! There are lots of training opportunities between now and then, so plenty of chances to keep learning, improving and building on this fantastic start. Keep up the hard work, lads

Monday Night Swimming Club – Places available

Swimming club takes place every Monday, immediately afterschool at Sir Charles Parsons until 5pm. The sessions are in small groups and are taught by two qualified swimming teachers. There are places available for both intermediate and non-swimmers in years 3,4 & 5. The sessions cost £10 per session. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Facebook

Please check out our Facebook page. Mr Strachan does an amazing job with our social media!

Anti bullying Week 2026 – Odd Sock Day

What a joy to see so many 'Odd Socks' walking through the gates of school. This is a fun way to keep alive the important message that Bullying will not be tolerated and that it is good to be different! Odd Socks Day is a fun and simple way to celebrate what makes each of us unique. It reminds us that our differences are something to be celebrated, and that everyone deserves to feel valued, included and respected. By wearing odd socks, we are showing that it's okay to be different and that kindness, acceptance and respect are at the heart of our school community

Year 6 FOCUS Week – Climate Change

At Newcastle University, FOCUS Week is a week-long aspiration-raising and widening-participation programme run with IntoUniversity for school pupils. As part of their FOCUS Week, our Year 6 will be exploring the important topic of climate change. Pupils will develop their understanding of the causes and effects of climate change, explore the impact it has on our planet and consider how we can all make a positive difference. Through engaging activities, teamwork and discussions, children will be encouraged to think critically, develop their confidence and become responsible global citizens.

Dates for the Diary - Advent Crafts

Here are the dates for our very popular Advent Christmas Craft sessions.

Tuesday 1st December 9:00 to 10:15 am Year 3 and 4

Tuesday 1st December 2:00 to 3:15 pm Year 5 and 6

Friday 4th December 9:00 to 10:15 am Year 1 and 2

Friday 4th December 2:00 to 3:15 pm Nursery and Reception



Collecting donations for the SVP

This year, as part of our school's Advent preparations, we are collecting donations for the SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society) which has its local branch in Newcastle near St Dominic's church. This fantastic charity provides Christmas hampers for local families who are finding things difficult at this time of year. Part of this involves providing children with age-appropriate gifts and this is where we have decided to help out. We are going to have a 'giving tree' in our porch with gift tags that you can take from the tree if you are able to help us with a donation. The tag will say boy or girl and an age. If you are able to buy a small gift that would be suitable for a child of that age, and return it with the tag to our office, we will gather the donations together and take them to the charity to be distributed to those who need them. As parents of primary-aged children, we are sure you will have some great ideas of the kind of things that would work for these gifts, but craft items, books, cuddly toys and games are always popular. Feel free to think of ideas of your own, but we do ask that items are new, unopened and in their original packaging. Thank you in advance for your support with this. We are sure the families who receive your gifts will be very appreciative of your kindness.

Mission Together

On Wednesday a visitor came to school. Maria Robinson led an assembly to explain the work of Mission Together. Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official charity for world mission. It encourages children to help other children around the world, through prayer and sharing. Founded in 1843 as the Society of the Holy Childhood, it supports children living in poverty, conflict, or turmoil regardless of background or belief. It was a lovely visit and Maria has volunteered to return to school to do some work around Catholic Social Teaching with our classes.

Gentle Reminder

The school day starts at 8:45 am. For those running slightly late, the gates close at 8:50am. Registers are taken at 8:50am, Latecomers – children and adults please to go to the office. All latecomers will go to class at 9am.

Who is Who at St Albans – The Newbies - Mr Strachan

Before finding my way into teaching, my career took a slightly different path! After leaving school, I went to university to study Media Production, where I enjoyed working collaboratively on a range of projects while also having the opportunity to develop my own ideas. I eventually specialised in documentaries and radio dramas, developing a real interest in storytelling and the ways in which people share their experiences.

Shortly after graduating, I began working at Lush, where I quickly fell in love with both the products and, more importantly, the people I worked alongside. What started as a job became a nine-year career, during which I progressed to Assistant Manager. It was actually through Lush that I first found my way into schools. I regularly took part in school visits and workshops, introducing children to the science behind chemical reactions through bath bomb making, exploring the world of perfume, discussing personal hygiene and visiting different communities to talk about employment and the world of work.

These experiences gave me a real insight into school life, and I found myself thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to work with children and support their learning. I had always regretted not pursuing teaching earlier, but it was the lovely teachers I met along the way who encouraged me to take the leap and reminded me that it was never too late to follow a different path. I'm very glad I listened!

I am now thoroughly enjoying my role in Early Years as one of the Nursery teachers, while also spending time supporting our Reception children. It is a real privilege to spend my days with some of the youngest members of our school community and to play a part in those important first experiences of education. I am particularly passionate about giving children a strong start to their school journey, building their confidence and encouraging a genuine love of reading, books and stories from an early age.

Outside of school, I enjoy going to the theatre, discovering new places to eat, getting stuck into a good television drama and occasionally trying my hand at baking.

I am loving becoming part of the St Alban's community and have already been made to feel so welcome by a fantastic team of teachers and such generous, interested parents. I look forward to getting to know you all better over the coming months and being part of your children's learning journeys!

Mr Strachan

That’s all for this week. Keep safe and we look forward to seeing you on Monday!