



# Newsletter

Friday 17th September 2021

## **Welcome back**

A big welcome back to all of the children! They have all settled back into their classes with their new teachers and are enjoying seeing their friends. They all look lovely and smart in their uniforms. Can I just remind parents that earrings are not allowed in school, even if they are covered with a plaster, and please remember the rule we have on sensible haircuts.

## **Safeguarding**

Can we please remind parents that if the child needs to enter school via the office at any time during the school day, including breakfast club, you **MUST** escort them to the school office and they should **NOT** be left at the school gate, as sometimes vehicles are moving around the car park. It is your responsibility to ensure your child has been signed in via the school office.

A draft copy of the **2021-22 Safeguarding Policy** will be available online soon. This needs to be agreed by the Governors. If parents have any questions regarding the policy, please contact me via the school office.

Although we are trying to return to a normal school life, we still have many **Covid 19** restrictions in school. We spoke to the children in assembly about the importance of hygiene / washing and sanitising hands throughout the school day. The new Covid guidelines state that even if a parent or a member of the family has Covid-19, the child is still expected to come to school unless they develops symptoms.

## **RE**

The Year 6 children have now made their First Holy Communion. It was lovely to see them all in church receiving the Body of Christ the first time. The Parish and school staff are now working on a programme for our current Year 5 children. It is hoped they will make their First Holy Communion around October/November time.

We also received news over the summer that Father David Smith will be leaving our Parish. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his support and for the time he spent in school with the children and staff. Father David is coming into school to celebrate Mass for the last time on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Father David will be replaced by Father Shaun O'Neill. Father Shaun came into school on Wednesday. He met and blessed all of the children and staff in their classes. We are all looking forward to working with Father Shaun and we wish him luck here in St Anthony's parish.

## **Race for Life**

The certificate has arrived in school showing we raised £3354.20 in our Race for Life in cash donations, however this does not include our online donations made via Just Giving. This was a great school community effort and a great charity to support. Well done everyone.

### **Breakfast Club**

If you require a place for your child, this **MUST** be booked in advance via the school office for us to provide the necessary staffing cover. Breakfast club opens at 8am and children must be signed in by 8.15am.

### **After School Clubs**

Below is a copy of the after school club rota. After school clubs finish at 4.15pm and children should be picked up at the main office. Staff will be sending out individual letters relevant to the activities, however if parents would like to send their children to the after school club, this should be booked via the school office.

Day	Activity	Year Groups	Ran by
Monday	<b>After School Club</b>	Reception to Year 6	School support staff
	<b>Basketball</b>	Years 4, 5, & 6 Boys & Girls	Mr Marshall
	<b>Cooking</b>	Year 1. More details to follow	Mrs Laverick
Tuesday	<b>After School Club</b>	Reception to Year 6	School support staff
	<b>Football</b>	Years 5, & 6 Boys	Mr Marshall
Wednesday	<b>After School Club</b>	Reception to Year 6	School support staff
	<b>Football</b>	Years 3, 4, 5, & 6 Girls	Mr Marshall
Thursday	<b>After School Club</b>	Reception to Year 6	School support staff
	<b>Football</b>	Years 3 & 4 Boys	Mr Marshall
	<b>Choir</b>	Years 4,5 & 6	Mrs Allan & Mrs Gosling
	<b>Craft Club</b>	Year 2 & Year 3	Mrs Duncan & Miss Green
Friday	<b>After School Club</b>	Reception to Year 6	School support staff

Payments for all clubs must now be made via ParentPay. All clubs will cost £2 per session, per child. Children will get a drink and small snack at the end of the school day, before the club starts. Most of the clubs will start from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Nursery places**

By coming to our Nursery the children instantly become part of our school. They take part in liturgies and assemblies, they form early friendships with their peers and older children in school and they become familiar with school routines and staff, which helps their learning as they progress through school into Reception class and beyond. **I would ask parents to consider the benefits of using our Nursery if they intend to apply to our school when their child is due to start Reception.**

***Applications forms can be obtained from the school office.***

### **Water fight & Bikeability**

It was great to see another sign of us returning to normal when we had our Year 6 and Year 4 carrying out the Bikeability course, learning new bike skills, which they will use when riding their bikes out on the road.

The children had their water fight on Tuesday. Although the weather wasn't great, the children had a fantastic time. Please see our social media pages for photos.

### **Home time pick-ups.**

We are monitoring the collection times and trying to find the best method for dismissing the children at the end of the school day. However for the time being, will parents please join the line to pick their children up at times set out below. If you have more than one child to pick up, will you plan to you come to school at 3.10pm, which is the LAST pick up time. The younger children will be supervised until you arrive at 3.10pm.

Nursery & Reception picked up at	2.50pm
Yrs 1 & 2	3.00pm
Yrs 3 & 5	3.05pm
Yrs 4 & 6	3.10pm

### **Parents Evenings**

We are making plans for parents evening and we hope to hold them soon, but are awaiting advice on which is the best format to do so, either face to face or electronically. As soon as we have more details, we will let parents know.

### **Basic Skills in the curriculum**

We have timetabled a 30 minute slot in all of the children's timetables for basic skills. This may be something you child's class teacher contacts you about. The basic skills are in Maths and English and are in key areas that the children need to be able to do for their age.

### **Art Block**

This week, the children started their art block of learning. It was lovely going around the classes seeing the children drawing self-portraits.

### **Reading Journals**

All of the children now have their reading journals. These should be taken home every night. Reading every night really supports the children's learning and something I hope parents will encourage.

### **Assemblies and liturgies**

Since returning to school, we have gone back to whole school assemblies and liturgies. Prior to Covid, these were a big part of our school week and it was great to start them again.

### **School Photos**

School photos will take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup>. The photographer will start at 8.30am for parents who would like photos with siblings who are not in our school. If you have siblings in school, school will organise their photo together across the school day.

### **House Groups**

We have five house groups in our school St Bede, St Cuthbert, St Aidan, St Catherine, and St Bernadette. All of Key Stage 1 and 2 children are given a house group, which they will keep for their time at St Alban's. Last week we gave the Year 1 children their new house groups. The children win house points for good work throughout the week and also for different competitions in school.

### **Contacting School**

Now that the children have all returned to school we have temporarily closed all the class emails accounts and staff will no longer have access to these emails. If you want to contact your child's class teacher, please ring the school office and make an appointment. If you need to email the school, please email via the school office on the email address below.

***admin@stalbans.newcastle.sch.uk***

### **Old uniforms**

Can I thank all of the parents for taking the time to recycle old uniforms. However, we are now inundated with them and so for the time being, school we be not collecting uniforms from parents.

### **Future Newsletters.**

We normally send out our school newsletters by email and post them on Facebook and the school website. I wanted to send out paper copies of this week's newsletter today, just to remind any parents, who may not have been receiving copies of our newsletter by email, to contact the school office with their email address.