



Newsletter

Friday 6th October 2023

Safeguarding

This coming week, the staff and Governors will take part in a Prevent Training update delivered by Newcastle City Council. This will allow staff and Governors learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation. Prevent sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs and physical and sexual exploitation.

RE

Please find enclosed the results of our recent Religious Education survey. Thank you to all the parents that took part we received replies from over 44% of our families. I will be sharing the results with Governors and staff and let parents know any outcomes.

Results from or RE survey September 2023

Questions	Strongly Agree or Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q1 My child feels safe and well cared for at St Alban's school.	97.50%	2.50%		
Q2 My child feels happy and valued at this school	96.25%	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%
Q3 Positive, respectful behaviour is promoted at St Alban's	96.25%		1.25%	2.50%
Q4 My family feels valued and welcomed by the school.	97.50%	1.25%		1.25%
Q5 Staff at this school are positive role models for my child.	95.00%	5.00%		
Q6 The school has strong links with our local parish.	95.00%	1.25%	2.50%	1.25%
Q7 Children are supported to live out the Catholic mission of the school through worship, charity and positive relationships with others in school, the parish and the wider community.	93.75%		2.50%	3.75%
Q8 My child enjoys learning in Religious Education.	96.25%		2.50%	1.25%
Q9 My child knows how well they are doing in Religious Education and how to improve.	82.5%	2.50%		15.00%
Q10 RE, Catholic Life and Collective Worship (e.g. prayer and liturgical prayer) are at the heart of school life at St Alban's.	95.00%	1.25%	1.25%	2.50%
Q11 I am invited to be involved in the prayer life of the school	88.75%	6.25%	1.25%	3.75%
Q12 My child enjoys taking part in prayer in school.	87.50%	1.25%	1.25%	10.00%
Q13 Collective worship, the Catholic life and mission of the school and Religious Education have a positive impact on the moral and spiritual development of my child.	87.50%	2.50%	1.25%	8.75%

Parents Comments from the survey:

- As Christian family we love that our children are attending the school that does RE and prayer. In this world we live in we need prayer it's good for them and their faith.
- I'm happy with the way things are
- I am happy my daughter can participate in Catholic life and learn how spiritual life is important in our lives.
- Prayer is something my child is very proud to show us at home since joining St Alban's and enjoys to do so before mealtimes.
- My child enjoys RE lessons and takes part in liturgical prayer with enthusiasm. She has been a Mini Vinnie in her time at the school, which enabled her to live out her Christian faith in an active way.
- I think RE, prayer and Catholic life should be the bedrock of St Alban's and any curriculum that contradicts the core tenets in the bible shouldn't be taught to our children.
- Prayer has been something my child is very proud to show us at home. It's wonderful

Family Harvest Mass

We have arranged a Family Harvest Mass for Saturday 14th October at St Anthony's Church at 5.30. **We hope all our families can attend.** We hope to use the event to try and support a local Food Bank and any donations can be left in the box on the yard or at the school office.

Relationships and Sex Education Policy.

We informed parents earlier this week that a draft copy of our policy for Relationships and Sex Education is available to view on line. If any parent would like a paper copy, please contact the school office. The policy is a model policy from the diocese and I would welcome any comment from parents.

Curriculum

This week, the children started their new History block of learning. The details of what the children will be learning are on their Half Term Curriculum Plan which was sent out at the beginning of the term. If parents would like another copy, please contact the school office. Please keep an eye out for pictures on the class blogs and remember to ask your children what they have been learning in all lessons.

Parents Evening

The dates for Parents Evening will be Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October. **Booking is online but will close on 12th October.** It is really important that all parents make an appointment.

Coffee Morning.

Thank you to all the parents who supporting our coffee morning on the 6th October and well done to Phoebe, Mason and Julia for winning the delicious raffle prizes. All the prizes were donated and we would like to say thank you to **Cake Design, Heaton**, who donated the first prize and Miss Drew for the second prize. Well done to our Mini Vinnies who worked hard to arrange the event. They were delighted to when told they had raised over £300 for charity.

Reading Journals

The home-school agreement is an important document within the journal and needs to be signed by your child, their teacher and you, as their parent. Please ensure that you discuss this with your child and sign the document as it contains lots of important information, including our school rules. The uniform policy, including the wearing of jewellery, is also in the journal, so please see this for guidance, as we have noticed children returning to school with jewellery or items of clothing which are not in line with our policy.

New Parent Governor

We need to appoint a Parent Governor to our Local Governing Committee. This is a great way for parents to support our school. If any parent is interested, or would like to nominate a parent, please will you contact Mr Smith via the school office.

Homework.

Homework develops study habits and independent learning. Research shows that homework also benefits factual knowledge, self-discipline, attitudes to learning and problem-solving skills. Lots of the homework our children receive is recapping learning that has already taken place in the classroom and is usually an extension to the learning. Can I ask that parents speak with their children before contacting class teachers about homework? Homework is explained clearly to the children and part of the homework is for the child to be able to articulate their homework task to an adult at home.

Fr Shaun.

Fr. Shaun has informed us that he will be leaving the parish of St Anthony's at the end of October, to become the parish priest of Berwick/Seahouses/Holy Island parishes. Fr Shaun has been fantastic support of our school and formed great relationships with the children, staff and Governors. We will all miss him and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of everyone at St Alban's and wish him good luck in his new role.

Fr. Jonathan Bowes will be taking over and everyone at St Alban's is looking forward to working with him.

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