



Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

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17th November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children in Need

The children enjoyed their dancing in assembly this morning for BBC Children in Need. They've been excited all day about their teachers dressing up. Thank you to Miss Ketley for organising events, to those of you who came along to last weekend's ramble at Gorhambury and to everyone who sent in a donation today. We raised £560. What a fantastic total! Thank you.

More charity thanks

Operation Christmas Child collected 130 shoeboxes on Thursday. I was conducting a reception tour when the boxes were being collected and our visitors were touched by your generosity. Any last minute boxes can be dropped off tomorrow before 5pm at The Entertainer shop in St Peter's Street or at St Mark's Church, Colney Heath, AL4 0NH.

We've had a lovely email from Finnian's Mum on behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal. This year's collection raised an amazing £241.87 – a record for our school. The money will be used to buy things like mobility aids for injured veterans or to give bereaved families a break. Thank you for your kind support.

Anti-bullying and staying safe resources

Like many schools, we launched anti-bullying week this week. It signals the start of essential teaching on personal safety that we return to and continue to build on throughout the year. We have a series of lessons, circle times and assemblies to develop an understanding of what bullying is and how to deal with it, whether it is happening to you or to someone else. If your child expresses any concerns, please speak to their class teacher. The children will be working on a factsheet to use at home with you.

A key part of their learning on personal safety is finding and using a 'BIG voice' so they can get help in any situation where they feel uncomfortable or worried. We explain how the area covered by a swimsuit or pants is private. Useful resources for parents can be found at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/> I understand that you may find this challenging but it is so important that teach the children how to assert themselves and empower them to take a problem to a trusted adult.

Online resources and eSafety

Year Two are learning keyboard skills. In school we use Tux Typing which is free to download if you would like to have it at home. Here is the link <http://tux4kids.alioth.debian.org/tuxtype/download.php> I am sending home a letter about the rules we use in school when the children are working online and acceptable usage by the whole school community.

Curriculum news

The materials used in the phonics and reading workshop have been uploaded onto the school website News page. Apologies for the delay but we have to rework some pages to comply with copyright rules. We were chuffed to receive a call from one of Herts for Learning's Maths advisors requesting samples of the children's work for their



Building God's Community of Love and Learning



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Maths blog following some recent school training. We have introduced some new planning and teaching strategies in KS1 which the children are really enjoying. We will offer an opportunity for parents to come into school and work alongside their children in the new year. Watch this space!

Next week

Although next week is National Road Safety Week, we will continue with anti-bullying work and return to this important topic at a later date.

Monday 20th November – school open as normal. The planned INSET day for staff has been moved and school will be closed on Friday 1st December.

Tuesday 21 November - Nasal flu immunisations will take place during the school day.

Friday 24 November - Christine, the school's Lollipop Lady, will not be on duty. The crossing will be unmanned so please take extra care.

Switch Off Fortnight begins on Monday. Children will be thinking about how we use energy and how we can reduce waste by making small changes like turning off the tap while we brush our teeth or switching off lights when we leave the room. Mrs Tennant is preparing a sheet for the children to draw or write about how they save energy which will go home in book bags next week.

PTA News

Popcorn Night on Friday 8th December featuring 'Arthur Christmas' after school. Cost £3 for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 only.

Parents are welcome at the next PTA meeting which will take place at 7pm on Monday 27th November in the Junior School. We will be planning future events and hoping to appoint a new Chair – please do consider this important role.

Santa Letters - going home in book bags today is a very special template to help your children write a letter to Father Christmas. Please see separate Parentmail for more details. Post boxes will be located in the main entrance and outside Nursery from Monday.

Have a peaceful weekend.

Kind regards



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