



Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

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Head teacher: Mrs. B Dempsey



8 September 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

It's good to be back together again after the summer holidays - a very warm welcome to the new Reception children and their families. We hope you will enjoy being part of our school community. This weekly newsletter will contain reminders and information about forthcoming events. Most school communications are sent electronically via ParentMail or text and almost everyone has already signed up – thank you! If you would prefer paper copies, please inform the school office.

What a great start!

Thank you so much for your support in encouraging the children to come into class independently. They have settled so well! We are impressed by how quickly the new children are learning routines and making friends. Our new Reception pupils will stay all day from Thursday 14th September and the new Nursery children will begin their phased starts next week too.

Y1 and Y2 parent meetings: we had a great turnout for this morning's meetings to go over classroom routines for the new Y1 and Y2. The teacher PowerPoints have been uploaded onto the school website for your information and can be found on the year group pages under the 'School Life' tab. Do check for uploaded letters and homework information on these pages.

Healthy Schools Status

Our status as a Healthy School has been confirmed (see the new logo on the foot of this letter). Many congratulations to everyone in the community, especially Mrs. Smith for her leadership. It is a lot of work to prepare the submission so it's a fantastic achievement. Particular strengths were our PSHE curriculum, the school emphasis on eSafety and physical activity as well as healthy school lunches, for which we have an excellent uptake. Of course it's the children who really shine, both in their knowledge of who to go to with a problem or worry and through their contributions to school council and Eco Team.

Welcome to Mrs. Adams: we've welcomed Mrs. Lisa Adams as a full-time class teacher in Year One this week. Mrs. Parkinson is enjoying her retirement but will be coming back to see us from time to time (see her message below)

Message from Mrs. Parkinson: thank you all so much for the incredibly generous gift you gave me at the end of last term. I was truly overwhelmed, and want you all to know that I will endeavor to spend it wisely...or maybe just have fun! As I said at the end of term, I shall miss so many things about the school, but look forward to popping in and seeing the children as they continue to flourish and grow. With love, Mrs. P x

Breakfast club: Mrs. Harrison and the team run our well-established Breakfast club from 7:45am in the school hall every morning. It costs £3 per child per session (discounts available for families i.e. £5 for 2 siblings, £6 for 3 siblings) and is open to both Infant and Junior children. Children are escorted to class or the Junior school by staff. No booking is necessary and a healthy breakfast is also available for £1.

Badgers After School club

It's hard to believe but we didn't even have an after-school club this time last year! It's grown and developed and has proved very popular with parents. Feedback is excellent and the children really enjoy it. The club is open to pupils from Reception to Year 2 and runs every day during term time. Unlike Breakfast Club, places are limited and only



Building God's Community of Love and Learning



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available when booked in advance. More information can be found at <http://ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk/badgers-after-school-club>.

Autumn Fair 2017 – non uniform day

The Autumn Fair takes place on Saturday 23rd September here at the Infants School. It has proved popular with everyone and is an excellent opportunity to meet new families. Infant children usually supply the sweets and chocolates for a sweet Tombola. The children may wear their **own clothes to school on Thursday 21st September** and we ask that they donate some sweets or chocolates for the stall. No nuts or loose sweets please for health and hygiene reasons. Watch out for PTA information on how you can help and do support us on the day.

PTA News

Autumn Welcome Fair - Saturday September 23rd from 12-3pm

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year so please do your best to support it in the following ways:

- 1. Helping out** - all our stall holders are now recruiting people. Please offer an hour of your time if asked. If you are not approached by anyone directly then email ssaspta@gmail.com saying which hour you can help in and we will place you in a team.
- 2. Setting Up** - equally important are the people who come from 9am to get the school ready. Dads are particularly welcome. The more people we have the easier it is for everyone. Again, email the PTA if you can help.
- 3. Toys, Books and Games** - please bring these in to the Infant school library from Monday 18th September. **Please ensure all donations are complete and in good condition.** Don't forget soft toys which will be used on the soft toy tombola.
- 4. Cakes** - we will be asking for donations to the cake stall nearer the time.

PTA AGM & Social

The PTA AGM will be held in The Crown from 8pm on Tuesday 26th September. This is a great opportunity to find out who the PTA Committee are and what they do in an informal atmosphere. Please come along.

Pantomime - once again we are taking over the Arena for our own performance of Aladdin on Saturday 9th December. Tickets will go on sale next week so look out for a letter coming soon!

This week has been very special. There is a lovely atmosphere in school because the children are excited to be back and we are excited to see them. School only comes to life when the children are here and we're looking forward to all we will learn and do in this wonderful place. I pray that God will guide and bless our school community in the coming academic year.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Bernadette Dempsey
Head Teacher

