



Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

Vanda Crescent, St. Albans, AL1 5EX

Tel: 01727 854643

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Headteacher: Mrs B Dempsey



27th January 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you!

We have had a very busy week! We received a phone call on Tuesday to say that a team of RE Inspectors would be in school on Thursday as part of the Diocesan inspection cycle. Thank you for responding to their questionnaire in such large numbers at short notice. The team said that the children were great ambassadors for the school. The outcome remains confidential until the report is officially published after half-term when parents will receive a copy.

Storytelling

We enjoyed visits from Ian Douglas, a storyteller, this week. The children were captivated by his tales and we'll use their new skills to read and perform the stories we are currently writing. Please encourage your children to retell familiar stories at home, using actions and voices to make their stories more effective.

Bennett's Blood Video

In assembly this morning, we watched a video all about blood made by Bennett and his big sister. They did an excellent job of explaining the components of blood and their respective roles. Many families will have benefitted from blood transfusions following illness or surgery and the video is a powerful way to communicate the need for blood donors to come forward. Information on how to donate can be found at www.blood.co.uk. We will post a link to Bennett's video next week on the school website so do take a look.

Parking and Safety

I have received a number of complaints from neighbours in Vanda Crescent. The situation had improved but this week residents were late for work or unable to collect their children from school because their driveways were blocked. Please show consideration. "I'll only be two minutes" is no excuse when a doctor is on an emergency call. Traffic control wardens will be issuing tickets to offending vehicles and school parking permits will be withdrawn.

I share the concerns of a worried parent regarding safety at the crash barriers in Vanda Crescent. The area at the top of the ramp by the school kitchen becomes very congested. To reduce this we have asked that Reception and Nursery parents should use the Butterfly gate in Camp Road to collect and drop off. Year 1 should use the top of the ramp by the school kitchen and Year 2 should continue to use the main entrance.

More recently, badly parked vehicles by the crash barrier have prevented drivers from seeing pedestrians, especially children, using the pavements and footpaths. Please consider other parents on foot when you are in your car. Driving at speed or mounting the pavement to pass parked vehicles is selfish and dangerous. Children should never walk on the road side of the barriers or climb on them.

Health for Kids Website

Hertfordshire County Council is promoting a website for children between the ages of 4 and 11. There are activities for parents/carers/teachers to enjoy with children, advice to support their development and much more. Please note that there is a range of material and advice which parents should screen first before using with their children. It can be found at www.healthforkids.co.uk.



Building God's Community of Love and Learning



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Home Start – Helping other families

Home Start volunteers use their own parenting experience and skills to support other parents. It has helped many parents and children around the County and we are publicising their appeal for more volunteers in West Herts. More information can be found at www.home-startherts.org.uk or by calling Claire or Maggie on 01438 367788.

Important information affecting your journey to & from school

Affinity Water will begin eight weeks of work to replace water pipes on Campfield Road on Monday, 30th January. Further information on the work can be found at: www.affinitywater.co.uk/customerzone. We anticipate possible delays in the area so please allow extra time for your journey or walk if possible.

Collecting for school?

We will hold a Bring & Buy sale during Maths week which starts on 6th February. We ask you to donate any clean, good-quality toys, games or books that you no longer need. We set up a sale in the library and the children get the chance to 'go shopping'. It helps to develop an understanding of the value of money. Please check book bags for a letter about the sale. We appreciate parent helpers to sort and run the sale with Junior children. It is great fun so do sign up if you can. We welcome Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers which we can use to get playground and PE equipment. Please ask your neighbours and family to collect too – thank you!

PTA News

We have been spending some of the money that parents have raised through the PTA since we came back to school in January. We are awaiting delivery of more accessible sheds to hold new outdoor learning resources for FS and KS1. I have no doubt you'll hear about it and there will be photos on the school website – we'll keep you posted! We have set aside funds to purchase new ICT equipment when our new server is installed, including Bluebot robots and new iPads. All the money you raise will directly benefit the children so thank you for all your generosity.

PTA Quiz - Friday 3rd February. Doors open at 7.30pm for a prompt 8pm start. There is still time to enter a team (max 8 people). Teams must register before Wednesday 1st February. See Parentmail sent on 19th January for details.

Raffle Prizes - we are always on the look-out for them! If you have any good quality, but unwanted, Christmas presents for adults or children then please donate them to the PTA for future raffle prizes. Contact the PTA by email or bring labelled items to the school office. Thank you.

PTA Ball - Saturday 1st April. Information on how to buy tickets will be going out shortly.

Popcorn Night - Friday 24th February. This term's film will be 'Finding Dory'

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,



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