



Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

Vanda Crescent, St. Albans, AL1 5EX

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Head teacher: Mrs. B Dempsey



5th December 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you all enjoyed the extra day off on Friday. The teachers had an inspiring day and have a range of new ideas and resources to use in the classroom. Thank you for your understanding about the date change.

Admissions 2019-20

I have written to parents concerning proposed changes to school admissions for 2019-20. Our Chair of Governors, David Miveld, has also sent a letter about Reception Admissions at the Infants for 2019-20. This will go to public consultation too, something all schools are required to do. There are changes proposed for the Junior School admissions in 2019-20 which could affect pupils and siblings across the Infants School, as well as changes at Secondary level to several popular schools. All the relevant information on which schools are consulting and how to ensure your comments are considered can be found on the front page of the Infants School website.

Premises updates

After three years of unsuccessful bids, we finally secured £74,000 from the Diocese of Westminster to carry out urgent repairs to the Nursery roof and the drains at the front of the main school. It sounds like a lot of money but it doesn't go very far! Governors Fund is required to contribute 10% towards this so your regular contributions to Governors Fund are vital. Unfortunately, all capital works are subject to VAT, which we cannot reclaim.

- **Nursery**

As you are aware, the Nursery roof was repaired and re-covered late in the summer term. Our surveyor has also drawn up plans for the internal refurbishment of the toilets and classroom which will be paid for from Governors Fund. We are planning to complete the work in phases, over holidays and weekends, so Nursery will remain open.

- **Drains**

Not the most appealing subject but very necessary! There have been several floods in the main entrance so urgent work is also required to deal with surface water. The original school building and drains date to 1934. Inevitably some have developed underground cracks and broken joints. Works start this week and continue until the end of term. We are drawing up on a schedule of works to ensure disruption for children and families is minimal. Our contractor has experience of working in schools and all staff have enhanced DBS clearance.

Essential Safety Information

Safety is our major concern so I will inform you by text or letter if any temporary changes or adjustments are required in order to keep your children safe and to keep the school running smoothly. During these works it is **essential** that children stay with their parents **AT ALL TIMES**. The children follow the school rules during the day and can be expected to do the same before and after school. Some areas around the ramps and steps at the front of school are roped off to provide a compound for the contractors. Please do not cross any barriers or tape erected for your own safety.

Christmas plays

Foundation Stage parents have received their allotted tickets for the relevant performances. Flex 1 and Morning nursery will join with Class 2 on Wednesday morning at 9:20 in the main school hall. Parking will be somewhat limited on the playground and restrictions apply on local streets. Can I ask that you park at Morrison's or Clarence Park and



Building God's Community of Love and Learning



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allow a little extra time to walk to school if possible please? The second play is on Friday 8 December at 2.15 pm (Afternoon Nursery, Flex 2 and Class 1). KS1 tickets will go home this week.

Christmas Post

The Christmas postboxes will be open from Wednesday 6th December. Post boxes will be located in the main entrance, for children in Year 1 and Year 2 and outside Nursery for Reception and Nursery children. **No more than 10 Christmas cards per child should be posted (less if possible).** It will close for all pupils on Friday 15th December at 9.10 am. Please do not bring any cards after these dates. Sorting over 2,000 cards is a long process!

Please address cards with name of child and class:

Class 1 Ms. Meloy

Class 2 Miss Ketley

Class 3 Mrs. Cooper & Mrs. Murphy

Class 4 Mrs. Adams

Class 5 Mrs. Tennant & Mrs. Watters

Class 6 Miss Cannon

Information for families whose children have additional needs

Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND) has free online news and information about inclusive sports, courses, support for parents, carers and young people and much more. There are many opportunities for parents and pupils at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews/

Families First

This is a one-stop location with advice and guidance for families on a range of topics as well as a directory of Hertfordshire services and where to get help. Do check it out at

<https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/familiesfirst.page?familiesfirstchannel=0>

Please don't forget these dates:

Friday 8th December – PTA Popcorn Night for Y2, Y1 & Reception pupils

Saturday 9th December – PTA pantomime at the Alban Arena (sold out)

Sunday 10th December – Joint Schools Mass for Advent

A small change this year – the children still wear school uniform to 9:30 Mass but *sit with their families*, rather than as a large group at the front of the church. It is hoped this will ease seating difficulties when liturgy group returns to the church so we're giving it a try! We will reserve some seats for readers and dancers at the front of the church. It's a lovely Mass and always well-attended so do please join us. Remember that parking is available at Loreto on Beaconsfield Road.

Kind regards

Bernadette Dempsey



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