



Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

Vanda Crescent, St. Albans, AL1 5EX

Tel: 01727 854643

Fax: 01727 893158

Website: www.ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk

Email: admin@ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs B Dempsey



12th January 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

We welcomed Mr. David Eaton, new chair of the PTA, to assembly this morning. He is encouraging parents who wish to get involved in PTA fundraising or those with ideas for possible events to contact the PTA on ssaspta@gmail.com. There will be a revamp of the PTA page on our website and a newsletter very soon.

Arriving and leaving school

One of our priorities is a smooth and safe start and end to every day. The gate by the Alban Way, close to our kitchen is for Y1 parents only and remains closed during the school day. Nursery and reception parents, as well as those collecting from Badgers, should use the butterfly gate on Camp Road please. Staff will politely stop any adult they do not recognize. Please don't be offended – they're keeping your child safe.

Y2 children should stand with parents before school and not play by the scooters, behind the hedges or on the grass bank. There are clipboards in the main entrance for Y2 messages about collection arrangements and an adult on the door. As Y2 are dismissed, adults should queue along the disabled ramp, class 5 on the left closest to school and class 6 on the right next to the hedge. This enables the line to move forwards and staff to see the children delivered safely to parents. Families can then leave through the main gates. From Monday, teachers will not dismiss children to adults standing in front of the doors or on the ramp or on the pavement - it has been impossible to see clearly at times this week because the ramp is so crowded. Children are only permitted to go out when called by their teacher because there may be an important message to deliver to you. Thank you for your cooperation.

Admissions 2018

Monday 15th January is the closing date for Year 3 and Reception applications for September 2018. From this year, Nursery applications are managed under a completely different process. Full information and school forms can be found on our school website www.ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk. Applications open on Friday 19th January and close on Friday 16th February. The website has dates and times for Nursery tours that can be booked via the school office.

Funeral arrangements for Fr. Tom Hewitt MSC – Rest in Peace

Tuesday 23rd January at 7pm; the coffin will be received into the church for Mass.

Wednesday 24th January at 10am; Requiem Mass will be held followed by burial at Hatfield Road cemetery.

Parishioners are welcome to attend all or part of the ceremonies. Light refreshments will be available after services on both days.

Flowers – Family flowers and one wreath from the Parish only please. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Hospice of St Francis in memory of Fr. Tom (www.stfrancis.org.uk Tel no: 01442 869550). Donation envelopes will be available in the church soon.

Book of Condolence -For anyone wishing to record a brief message of sympathy, a book of condolence will be placed near the side altar in the church. The book will be given to his family after his funeral arrangements.

Parking arrangements – Parking at the church will be reserved for family and visiting priests on both days. Parking will be available at Loreto College on Tuesday evening but not on Wednesday morning. Parishioners are requested to walk or use public transport where possible and public car parks if they drive.



Building God's Community of Love and Learning



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After-school gym club

Despite our best efforts to manage applications for this term's Monday gym club, we've been unable to allocate places on a first come, first served basis, as per Beverley's letter. Beverley will be changing this in future. Completed slips were returned in many different ways and at different times (at Breakfast club, through class boxes, dropped into the office, etc.). Our task has been made even more difficult by unprecedented numbers of applications this term. In this instance, I have taken the decision to do a 'lucky dip' for this term's gym club. We have retained the names of unsuccessful gym applicants who will be given first refusal for Summer term places. I apologise to those who will be disappointed this term.

Inventioneering Club

Inventioneering begins on Monday 15th January. Alongside Mr. Brown and Miss Ketley will be Mr. Owens and Mr. Markovits, who have volunteered their support for the four weeks that the club will run – thank you to them. I'm grateful, as always to Mr. Brown for his energy and enthusiasm. He will be taking a break from February but school staff will offer the club later this year to a group of children who missed out on places.

Parking warning

Please be aware that traffic wardens were patrolling and issuing tickets this week and will return. School parking badges should be prominently displayed on your windscreen but only allow 15 minutes to drop/collect and will not protect you from a ticket. School is unable to support appeals against tickets.

Corporate Social Responsibility – can you help?

One of our governors, Manuel Lopez, gave a presentation on CSR at our resources committee meeting this week. It's a way for businesses to 'give back' to their local community, either through donations, fundraising or practical activities. For example, Bunning DIY store, offer a 'sausage Saturday' for a PTA or school to sell sausage rolls to raise funds. Many of you may have participated in 'away days' involving gardening, DIY projects, etc. Please have a look at any CSR opportunities offered by your employer as we will be asking for your help in future newsletters.

We took delivery today of three very shiny new computer monitors for Class 6. We obtained a great discount on this high specification equipment thanks to Mr. Kent, a year 1 parent, who organized them through his employers. Thank you to him on behalf of the children, who are already putting them to good use.

Please join us tomorrow, Saturday, between 1pm and 3pm for a 'Get Your Grown-Ups Gardening' afternoon. We'll tidy the school grounds, weeding and sweeping, to remind ourselves that these dark mornings and evenings will soon be brighter.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,



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