



St Alban's

Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Member of St. Clare's Catholic Multi Academy Trust, Diocese of Hallam

Let God's love shine in our lives as we grow and learn together

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Friday 22nd December 2023

To all in our school community,

This has been an action packed Autumn term in which we have enjoyed many events starting with our Sports Days in September, Parents Evening in October, Adventures in Learning Presentations in November and a variety of activities in December finishing with Christmas performances and Christingle! Our parents, carers and extended families, Father Desmond, parishioners, Governors and our Friends of School group have supported us throughout, making sure our children receive the very best Catholic education on offer! St Alban's Autumn Term 2023 in pictures: <https://www.st-albans.doncaster.sch.uk/page/current-news/131892>



*Movie Morning and Treats
St Patrick - House Winners*



St Patrick's not only won the Sports Day Y1 – Y6 but also earned the most house points as a team over the whole term so we treated them to a Movie morning and extra playtime, as decided by our School Council!

We thank you for your attendance at masses, feedback through surveys and questionnaires, superb response to our new Monday Messages weekly blog, positive praise for our 'outstanding S48 judgement for our Catholic life and mission and just this week, how our simple gesture of singing to a well-loved 'Old Nan' has captured the heart of not just our community but the whole country! God's love is certainly shining in our lives and we thank Him greatly for all that we have. You can read our S48 inspection report in full as well as each weekly Monday message here: <https://www.st-albans.doncaster.sch.uk/page/catholic-life/131246>

As we move from Autumn into our Spring Term, there are many more events that we ask you to attend to support your children on their learning journeys throughout the year. Our December Newsletter outlined the dates of the Parents Meetings for National tests in Y1, Y4 and Y6 and letters have been sent to Year 4 and 5 parents to invite you in to learn more about the exciting Residential visits we have planned for Autumn 2024! Link to our December Newsletter:

https://www.st-albans.doncaster.sch.uk/serve_file/22673206 We plan to hold workshops and further open days for you to learn more about how we teach in school and how to support your child's learning at home but in the meantime please continue to use our website for information on what your children will learn in each year group, what homework they will receive weekly and how to support them at <https://www.st-albans.doncaster.sch.uk/page/home-learning/131443>. Information about our curriculum can be found under the Curriculum section on the website (<https://www.st-albans.doncaster.sch.uk/page/curriculum/131247>) and how your children are experiencing the curriculum in their classes this year is celebrated on the Class pages section (<https://www.st-albans.doncaster.sch.uk/classes>) of the school website also.

In January, we look forward to the return of Miss Gibson, who will complement the Year 2 Selby team, enabling Miss Redfearn to add expertise in KS2 classes throughout the week. Also adding teaching capacity to our team, we welcome Mrs Stables in Year 1 who is a SCITT student teacher and two undergraduate teachers in both of our Early Years Easby and Rosedale classes. I know you will welcome our additional members to the teaching team and show them what an amazing community St Alban's is!

On a final note, please have in your prayers Mrs Davies' family and their beautiful baby girl Saoirse who was born at the end of November. And our Friends of School have raised a phenomenal amount of money over the festive season with all their voluntary commitment and your generous spirit, the total is almost £2000!!! Most of this will be donated and used to enable school staff to continue to arrange for visitors into school and to take children on trips out of school, enhancing their experiences within our curriculum with reduced costs to parents and carers. The remainder will support further FOS events and activities in order to ensure they are as successful as our Advent itinerary! This is an incredible achievement and one that demonstrates the love for each other and our children within the St Alban's community.

In the words of Pope Francis: "Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. . . . Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds." (Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home* [[Laudato Si'](#)], nos. 179, 219)

On behalf of all the staff at St Alban's, I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and pray the new year brings with it much joy and peace.

Mrs L Ebsworth
Headteacher