



St Alban's C of E Aided Primary School
Inspired to make a difference in God's world with excellence and love



WEEKLY BULLETIN 6TH MARCH 2026

Headteacher Message

Dear Parents/carers,

It has been so lovely to see the sunshine this week and it certainly feels like Spring has finally arrived.

There have been lots of fun book-centred events this week to celebrate our school book week. I would like to thank Mrs. Slocombe, for organising all the fun and creative activities. We really appreciate the time, effort and enthusiasm you have put into making it such an enjoyable experience for everyone. You helped bring stories to life, and we're so grateful for everything you did to make the week extra special.

We will continue to celebrate the National Year of Reading with even more fun, book related activities throughout the year - watch this space!

Leave of Absence Forms (Holiday Requests)

Whilst I recognise - and empathise - that holidays taken in school holidays are far more expensive than those during term time, I cannot authorise any absence or holiday for any reason, except those which are considered exceptional circumstances. The Department for Education does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

There is no specific definition for 'exceptional circumstances' and these requests are treated on an individual basis. Parents wishing to apply for leave of absence during term time must apply in writing to the Headteacher **at least a month before the planned leave and never in retrospect.**

Please note:

If a written request for leave of absence is not completed and the leave is taken without a request being submitted, the leave will not be considered by the Headteacher, and it will be marked as unauthorised. The full attendance policy can be found here:

<https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/attachments/download>

We aim to be a
NUT FREE
SCHOOL - Please
DO NOT include
ANY products that
contain **ANY** types
of **NUTS** in your
child's
lunch/snack.

What's in this bulletin?

- Headteacher message
- You said, we did...
- Rock Your Socks Day 2026
- Wake Up Wednesday
- Uniform Reminders
- Check your details!
- Attendance
- Celebrations
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You said, we did...

Parents said that invites into school for things like worships and learning quest celebrations were too frequent - so in response to parental feedback, we have reduced the number of times that parents are invited into school

Parents are now invited in for the final Celebration Worship of each half term. At Christmas, Easter and the End of the Summer Term, we will try to hold these events at church where Governor Awards will also be presented. These dates have been added to the school calendar.

Headteacher Awards and merits from class teachers are given out every week in our Friday Celebration Worship with just staff and children present.

Learning Quest Celebrations have been reduced to one a term instead of each half term.

Rock Your Socks Day 2026

We are delighted to be joining **Down Syndrome Awareness Week** (16th-20th March) celebrations again this year in support of Portsmouth DSA (<https://portsmouthdsa.org/>).

This year's theme, **"Together Against Loneliness,"** highlights the importance of connection and belonging. With your support, we can raise awareness, celebrate diversity, and promote meaningful inclusion for children and young people with Down syndrome.

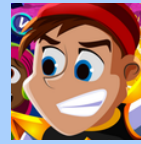
We are going to mark the week by having a **'Rock Your Socks Day'** on **Tuesday 17th March 2026** so wear your colourful, individual or funky socks to show your support!

As well as raising awareness, we are also raising money which will be donated to Portsmouth DSA. Please make all donations (ideally £1.00 per pupil) to Scopay (www.scopay.com) under the name 'Rock Your Socks 2026'. You are welcome to add additional funds in the 'Enter Payment Amount' box if you wish. Please do not bring cash into school.

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Safeguarding: Wake Up Wednesday!



This week's **#WakeUpWednesday** focuses on creative ways to encourage reading.

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

This will be added to the website <https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/online-safety> and shared on our school Facebook page each week.

Uniform Reminders

When purchasing new school uniform, please consult our uniform policy:

<https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/policies/>

IMPORTANT:

PE kits **MUST** be a
PLAIN NAVY
TRACKSUIT or
SHORTS - no
stripes or logos.
T-SHIRTS must be a
PLAIN WHITE POLO
STYLE.

**Check out the new
designs - available
from Skoolkit!**

We want to continue to look smart and if we all follow the uniform guidelines, we will. Please also remember trainers should be **BLACK** and with discrete, or preferably, **NO LOGO**.

Attendance and Punctuality

"Every day of school missed is a day stolen from a child's future,"
Bridget Phillipson (Education Secretary), August 2025

Whole school - 94.5% (national 94.7%)

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY UNLESS THEY ARE REALLY UNWELL; if you child feels under-the-weather, please send them into school and we can see how they go!

Average attendance by class to date:

- Oak (R) - 92.1%
- Cherry (1) - 92.3%
- Rowan (2) - 96.5%
- Birch (3) - 93.7%
- Hawthorn (4) - 94.7%
- Lime (5) - 96.9%
- Alder (6) - 95.6%



If you are unsure whether to keep your child off school if they are unwell, please look at this page on our website:

<https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/attendance>

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Celebrations

Headteacher Awards go to: Margo, Bessie, Thomas, Layla, Annie, Sean William, Tiffany, Dominic

This half term we are focusing on the learning skill of **CURIOSITY**.

How Can Being Curious Help Us Learn?

Being curious means wanting to find out more. When we are curious, learning becomes more fun and exciting!

Below is a list of children that received merits this week:

- Oak- Ivy, Taryn,
- Cherry - Orlando, Eliana, Arthur, Aiya
- Rowan - Henrik, James, Alfie, Mariam
- Birch - Peter, Everlyn,
- Hawthorn - Ethan, Leah, Ezmae, Rosie
- Lime - Lilya, Arnold,
- Alder - Fraya, Hunter, Thomas,

Check your details!

Have you purchased a new phone? Has your mobile number changed?

Maybe you have you moved house recently?

If so, please remember to let the office know!

If you would like to check that your details are up to date or if you need to make any changes, please email the office and these details can be checked and updated for you.

World Book Week... Part I!

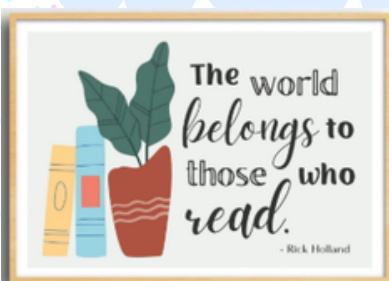
We had lots of fun celebrating Book Week this week - from book sales, to classroom door competitions, and of course dressing up as our favourite book characters - we have lots to share!

The school have raised **£114.75** from **second hand book sales!** This money will be used to purchase new books for school.



On Tuesday, we invited parents into school for **The Great St Alban's Read Off**. The winners of the **reading recipe challenge** are Charley (Lime) and Leah (Hawthorn).

The winners of the **book competition** are Sofia (Oak), Arthur (Cherry), Bessie (Alder) and Leila (Birch).



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World Book Week... Part 2!

Each class decorated their classroom door based on a different author.

The **door design winners** are Oak for KS1 and Hawthorn for KS2. Parents will be invited into school next week to have a look at the doors, and the rest of our school, with your child - please look out for a separate email.



The winners of '**best costume**' in each class are Ciaran (Oak), Albert (Cherry), Rosie (Rowan), Isaac (Birch), Luca (Hawthorn), Nadia (Lime) and Tahlia (Alder).

Overall costume winners for KS1 and KS2 are Esme (Cherry) and Isaac (Lime) - well done everyone!



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Outside School Celebrations

Celebrating the clubs, activities and achievements children take part in outside school is an important way to recognise their growing confidence, talents and interests.

Whether it's a sports team, dance class, arts group, scouts, music lessons or a special celebration within their community, these experiences help children develop new skills, build friendships and feel proud of who they are. By sharing and celebrating these moments together, we create a school community that values every child's uniqueness and encourages them to keep exploring the things they love.



Lily-mae in Birch class came 1st in a dance competition.

Congratulations!

Look how big that trophy is!

Congratulations to Oscar in Birch class who has achieved the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. I have never seen one of these before and this is a great achievement - well done!



BENEFITS OF READING TO CHILDREN



Collective Worship

This week we have been focusing on World Book Day and have decided, as it is The National Year of Reading, to have a whole week of reading celebrations. The House Captains and Vice House Captains wanted to be involved in this as much as possible so they asked to lead an assembly on the importance of reading. They did this admirably and the children participated well. I really hope that you have enjoyed all of the special events this week and that you are looking forward to lots more planned events this year.

All of our Collective Worship can be found on our website:

www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/collective-worship

"READING IS THE GATEWAY FOR CHILDREN THAT
MAKES ALL OTHER LEARNING POSSIBLE."
BARACK OBAMA



INSET DAYS 2025-2026

The remainder of the INSET days for this academic year are:

Friday 1st May 2026

Friday 3rd July 2026

Please make a note of these. The website will also be updated and we will continue to remind you on bulletins throughout the year.

Reminders for 09.03.2026

11/03/2026

Y3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm

13/03/2026

Healthy Me Workshop in school
with information session to
parents at 2.30pm

Parking Reminders

We remind parents to please park considerately. We continue to receive reports of cars parked in a way that blocks the road or driveway access - please be mindful and consider parking further away to keep access free for local residents and larger vehicles such as the emergency services.

A BOOK IS A DREAM
YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS.

- NEIL GAIMAN

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Headteacher:

Mrs Sarah Goldsworthy BA QTS NPQH

Ofsted



Read our report ↗