St Alban's C of E Aided Primary School

Inspired to make a difference in God's world with excellence and love

WEEKLY BULLETIN
16TH OCTOBER 2026

Headteacher Message

Dear Parents and carers,

Well, that was a week full of firsts...yet again! There is never a dull moment in a school. I cannot tell you how proud I am of all our children for their exemplary behaviour on Tuesday afternoon. They all took our evacuation in their stride, supported one another and remembered our school values by looking after one another and following instructions swiftly. One parent told me this morning that a family member saw the school walking to church and said, 'I just thought they were going on a school trip! It was incredibly well organised!'

Thank you to all of you who have checked in with us over the past couple of days and thanked us for the swift action that was taken. I have passed these thanks on to the staff. Each class has spent some time talking about the evacuation today so that children could share their feelings and worries if they wanted to. If your child continues to express worries about the evacuation, please do contact the school office and a member of the Inclusion team will spend some time with them.

As Headteacher, my number one priority is to keep everyone safe; there are numerous policies and procedures to support this and I am pleased that our Emergency Evacuation Procedure was effective in doing this. Until you actually need to follow a procedure, you don't quite know whether it will be effective and although there are a couple of small changes, I am really pleased with each of the steps and how well it worked.

As I'm sure those of you who are local to the school know, the school grounds has been a hive of activity over the last couple of days. It continues to be busy today with lorries and repair work to put the school pathways and field back to normal.

The Great South Run

Ben (Mr Evetts) is running the Great South Run this Sunday on behalf of The Goldsworthy Family. It would be amazing to all get behind him in raising vital funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

For those who would like to donate, please follow the link below.

Ben - Macmillan Cancer Support

Diary Dates

Next week, the final week of the half term, are our Learning Quest Celebrations for Years 1 - 6. It will be lovely to see you in school for these if you can make it; the activities the teachers have planned will be great fun! Looking ahead to next half term, there have been some additions to the school calendar...including a separate nativity for **Oak class (reception) on Friday 4th December at 2pm (in the school hall). Oak class parents -** please make a note of this incredibly important date and the many others that are planned for the (probably) busiest 7 weeks of the school year. Have a wonderful weekend!

What's in this bulletin?

- Headteacher message
- GIVE
- You said, we did...
- Wake Up Wednesday
- Attendance
- Uniform and earring reminders
- First Aid Friday
- Celebrations
- Collective Worship
- INSET days
- Reminders for next week

We are a school that has adopted a 'culture of allergy awareness and education', please remember we still aim to be a nut free school!





Weekly Reading Update- Pageticker week ending 11th October

Across the school...

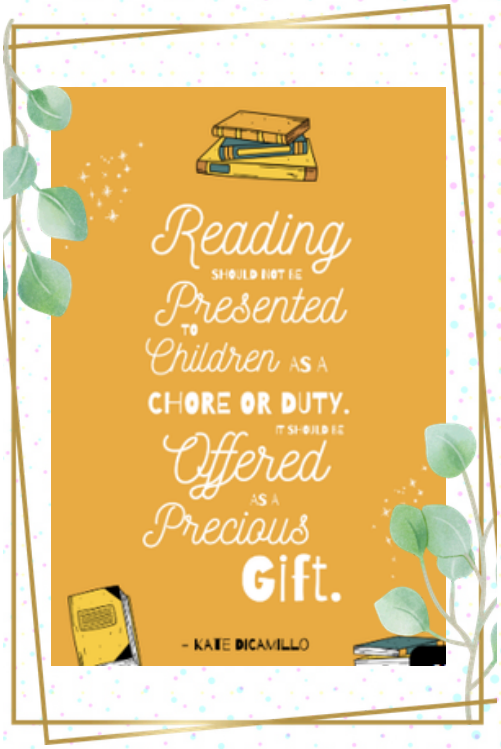
- 📖 **Books completed:** 239
- ⭐ **Books rated:** 247
- ✍️ **Books reviewed:** 12
- ⏱️ **Reading sessions logged:** 691
- 👏 **Sessions acknowledged:** 130
- 📄 **Pages read:** 25062
- ✅ **Logged 3 or more sessions:** 103
- 👪 **Students without a linked parent:** 24

Reading Tips for decoding

If you are stuck on a word, try this...

If the word starts with a capital letter, it is the name of a place or a person. Don't worry if you can't pronounce it properly—move on.

Meet another word that you are not sure of? Read the sentence before and after again and look for clues. Then keep going.



Look for clues in the text. Try reading the whole sentence and miss out the word you don't know. Then re-read the sentence with a word that it could be. Does it make sense?

Use a line-guide finger / ruler / spare paper if you need one to keep you in place and help you to concentrate.

Do you recognise any groups of letters from other words? 'igh' in sigh, high, light

'Turn on the TV inside your mind' whilst reading. This will help keep you focused and make some of the images within the text more memorable.

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Give

Helping others, saying thank you or just giving someone a smile can improve your self-esteem and your emotional health

When "Give" is going well

- You will have a sense of purpose and achievement.
- You'll feel connected to your community.
- You'll make new friends / widen your support network.
- You'll be a good role model and support to those around you.
- You'll grow in confidence.
- You'll learn new skills.
- You'll improve your mental well-being.

When "Give" isn't going well

- You may feel distracted and disinterested.
- Feeling removed.
- Isolation - feeling completely alone.
- Becoming a bad influence.
- Lack of confidence.
- Boredom.
- Low self-worth.

Useful Links

getvolunteering.co.uk

www.gohenry.com/uk/blog/chores/age-appropriate-chore-list-for-kids

Give back to your community

- Litter picking.
- Helping in a local Charity shop, Hospital, care home or animal Charity. Volunteer days are one of the easiest ways to give back to your community.
- Volunteer in school E.g. listen to readers, or support the PTA.
- Start a class WhatsApp.
- Start a conversation with a parent / carer at the school gate.
- Help a neighbour
  - Pop their bin out for them.
  - Walk their dog.
  - Offer to clean their room / house
  - Help in their garden.
  - Be a listening ear for a chat.
- Join a church group.
- Encourage children to take on a household chore.
- Children could draw a picture, write a letter to a friend, relative or neighbour.
- Children (with your support) could offer to care for theirs or someone else's pet.
- Reach out to local groups or clubs for help and support. They can **GIVE** back to you.

Made by Ruth Downer, Maria Knight, Sonja Balmer, Ceri Kentish, Maddy Child, Leoni Hayes, Jo Dorans, Sarah Allen and Jo Ayres in conjunction with East Hants and Havant Heads



Back to Basics

Each half term we are focusing on a different petal.
This half term we are exploring 'give'.
Looking after your family's wellbeing is very important.
As a parent or carer, you can take small steps to help your child's wellbeing as well as your own. You can do this by starting with the basics.

Think about your home environment and what small changes you can make together as a family. I definitely like 'Encourage children to take on a household chore' and shall be doing more of this in my family home!

You Said, We did...

Back to Basics Coffee Mornings

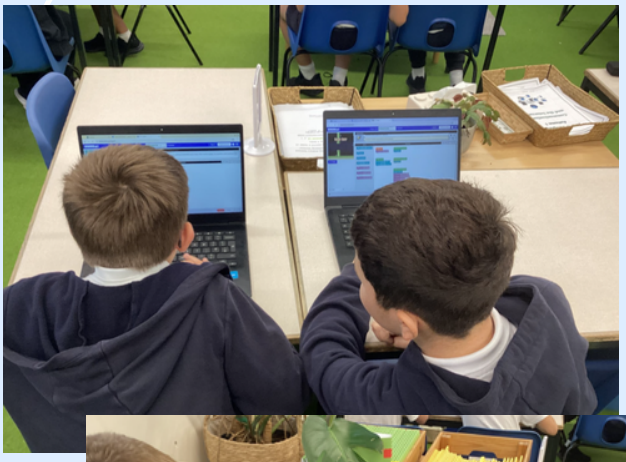
We are planning to run **Back to Basics** coffee mornings in the Green Room on the following dates:

Wednesday 4th November - 09:00-10:00
Wednesday 2nd December - 09:00-10:00

We will be using the petals from the Back to Basic flower at each coffee morning and our first one will be 'Give'. We will be sharing and giving each other recipes we use. Coffee and biscuits (and sometimes cakes!) will be provided and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. There will be an area set up for younger children to access toys and games.



Coding Club!



The first session of Coding Club on Monday was exploring Code.org hour of code. We experimented with building a galaxy in the Star Wars universe, coding an Angry Birds style game in Flappy Birds and using Adventure Time characters to crest our own Scratch games.

Lots of fun had by all!







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Safeguarding: Wake Up Wednesday



This week's **#WakeUpWednesday** focuses on AI companions.

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars aorund the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

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

Attendance and Punctuality

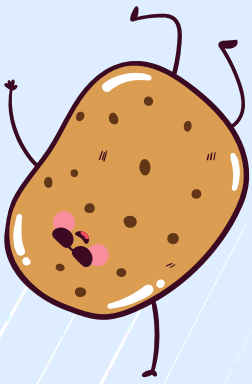
"Every day of school missed is a day stolen from a child's future,"
Bridget Phillipson (Education Secretary), August 2025

Whole school average - 95.7%
(national average 95.6%)

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) - 99%
- Cherry (1) - 96%
- Rowan (2) - 95%
- Birch (3) - 96%
- Hawthorn (4) - 95.5%
- Lime (5) - 96%
- Alder (6) - 95.5%



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

PE Kit 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.

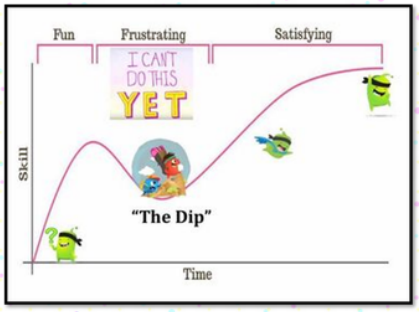
Check out the new designs - available from Skoolkit!

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.

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Celebrations

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







Headteacher Awards go to: Maddy,
STEP Awards go to: John, Leah, Lilli-Anna, Ruby
Merits go to:

- Oak (R) - Bertie, Emilia
- Cherry (1) -
- Rowan (2) - Hassan
- Birch (3) -
- Hawthorn (4) -
- Lime (5) -
- Alder (6) -

Health and Wellbeing: First Aid Friday

This weeks **#FirstAidFriday** focuses on...

More information can be found on our website: https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/wellbeing-support.

Modelling Road Safety Behaviour

On the Road Safety Team's most recent newsletter, they shared news of their new parent webinar to support parents in setting a positive example to help their child(ren) make safer choices when walking, cycling and travelling in a vehicle, now and in the future.

The leaflet below highlights these messages and promotes the free parent lunchtime webinar, being hosted during Brake's Road Safety Week in November.

Modelling road safety behaviour – parent/carer leaflet



This can also be found on our website here: https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/safeguarding-at-st-albans



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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.



Eleanor recently did litter pick on her walk to school and picked up lots - this was part of her Brownie kindness badge. She also worked with friends in her class to decorate pebbles with messages of kindness and left them on each step over the railway bridge. Thank you Eleanor for showing love and fellowship!

Please send in a picture and a short explanation if you would like your child to appear on our school bulletin!

Congratulations to Isla who enjoyed celebrating her Baptism with her friends and family at St Alban's Church on Sunday 4th October.

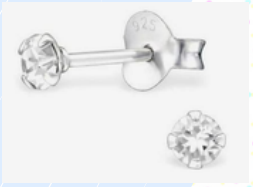


Reminder - Earrings in School

Following several reminders about the style of earrings that are suitable for school, if children are wearing any earrings other than simple round studs, they will now be asked to remove them. **These are the only style, colour that are acceptable: small studs that are either silver or gold or have a clear coloured gem.**

We want to continue to look smart and stay safe, and if we all follow the uniform guidelines, we will. If children continue to wear earrings that are not suitable for school, we will revert to only Year 6 being allowed to wear them.







Collective Worship

This half term we are focusing on the value of '**perseverance'.** We have already considered many of the things that we would be showing in class if we are persevering with our learning. In Collective Worship, we will be learning about perseverance through various Bible stories and activities that highlight the value of staying committed to goals and overcoming obstacles. This week, we explored our school vision and linked this to perseverance. **As a school community, we are called to show excellence by doing our best and love by encouraging one another. Sometimes the greatest difference we can make in God's world is helping someone else keep going when they feel like giving up.**

All of our Collective Worships can be found on our website: www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/collective-worship



INSET DAYS 2026-2027

The INSET days for the next academic year are:

Monday 30th November 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Friday 30th April 2027

Monday 7th June 2027

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

Please check your details!

Please inform the office if you (or another emergency contact for your child) move house or changes mobile number.

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.

Reminders for 19.10.2026

19/10
Non-Uniform Day

20/10
Y4 Learning Quest Celebration, 9am

21/10
Y5 Learning Quest Celebration, 9am
Y6 Learning Quest Celebration, 3pm

22/10
Y1 Learning Quest Celebration, 9am
HSA Discos - please ask the HSA for details.

23/10
Y2 Learning Quest Celebration, 9am
Whole School Dog Safety Presentation
End of Half-Term Celebration Worship, 2.45pm

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Headteacher:
Mrs Sarah Goldsworthy BA(Hons) QTS NPQH NASENCo

Ofsted
Read our report