

Friday 6th
September
2019

Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Schools'
Federation
Weekly Newsletter



Address from Ms Mc Flynn—Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new academic year after what I hope was a very enjoyable summer break for you and your children. I was delighted to meet so many of you last term at coffee mornings, assemblies and even at the school gate! This is our first single newsletter since the schools federated and we hope to keep you informed about the exciting events that happen across both our schools. The children appear to be settling into their new classes and we especially welcome our nursery children to our school family. I hope this will be a wonderful year for our whole school community.

Heads of School—Welcome

A very warm welcome to you after the summer break. We would like to say a particular welcome to our new Nursery, Reception & Year 3 children and parents who join us this year as well as new members of staff in both the Infant and Junior School. Mr. Baker has joined the Infant team as Site Manager along with Mr Miller as Reception Class Teacher. Ms. Cowan & Ms. Matthews have also joined the Junior Team. We hope that they will enjoy meeting new friends, learning and working in our vibrant and thriving school community.

As you may have noticed, it has been a busy summer on both sites with lots of decorating and refurbishment. It is so lovely for everyone to come back to a much fresher and brighter school. For the Junior school the next phase for the Upper Key Stage should hopefully be completed in the half term and the Infant School have exciting plans ahead too. It is a time of new beginnings and fresh starts and the children have all settled wonderfully into the new classes. They all seem to have grown and matured so much over the holidays and are back and eager to learn.

Overleaf, you will find notices for both the Infant & Junior schools.

We thank you for your continued support & look forward to working with you over the year ahead.

Infant notices

Positive Lunch Times - The children have had lots of fun during lunch times this week. Each child belongs to a special colour family which is made up of a group of children from Reception to Year 2. The children then enjoy fun activities & games in the playground facilitated by staff within their groups. As part of this approach, children have enjoyed dressing up, climbing & building this week. Mr. O'Neill will also be joining the lunch time team on Tuesdays and Wednesday s to offer additional sports and games. The older children have enjoyed extra responsibilities such as helping our new Reception children settle in by supporting them in the dining hall and playing with them in the playground. Children will stay in their colour group for a half term and are then rotated to spend time learning, sharing & having fun with a new group of friends. Running lunch-times in this way ensures that children have opportunities to mix with all of the children in the school from Reception to Year 2 thus developing excellent social & communication skills. Shorter play times remain the same as before with children mixing within their own key stage only.

Excellent Effort! - Each week, the teachers will be looking out for children who have made a special effort with their learning either socially or academically. The emphasis is on the **effort** that the child has made rather than a finished product which in turn promotes the development of resilience and recognises learning as a life-long journey rather than an end product. To acknowledge their efforts, the children will be presented with a special certificate on Tuesday afternoon at the children's assembly which they will then take home to share with you. On Friday afternoon, the children who have been recognised for their special effort will have hot chocolate with Miss Cannon as a special treat. When your child takes home their certificate this year, please spend time talking about the excellent effort that they have made & celebrate this with them.

Finally, congratulations to the families of Ayaan Shahbaz and Sam Stokes who have been blessed with new baby girls!

Junior Notices

Volunteers - As always, we welcome any help where possible from parents or grandparents who can spare a little time to read with our children or to help out in maths lessons. If this is something that you would be able to do, please contact your class teacher or the office. We would warmly welcome an extra pair of hands to help out. If you have volunteered in the Infant School, please bring your DBS certificate in. If not, we will organise the check. Your help would be much appreciated.

Lost Property—Already, several items have made their way to our lost property. Please ensure that **ALL** your child's uniform including trainers are labelled as it makes it very difficult to find the owner when there is no name on the items. A simple permanent marker on the tag will suffice.

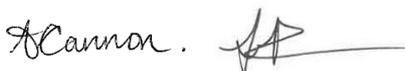
Important dates

Tuesday 10th September—9.10am Year 4 Meet the teachers & 7.00pm—Stackpole meeting for Year 6 parents

Wednesday 11th September—9.10am—Year 5 Meet the teachers

Thursday 12th September—9.10am—Year 6 Meet the teacher and secondary transfer meeting

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.



Miss Cannon & Mrs Porter