



Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Schools' Federation

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13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many of you will know me already, however I thought I would take this opportunity to share my new role with you. I will now be the full-time Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) in Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Primary school. I am looking forward to supporting all families in our school community to achieve the best possible outcomes for your children.

I have worked at this school for over twenty years. I started as a Teaching Assistant before qualifying as a teacher in 2006. I subsequently completed the SENDCo qualification and have been SENDCo in the Infant school for several years. Mrs Beverstock has done an excellent job in the Junior school and has completed a very thorough handover, however in her absence I am excited to take on this new role.

The key part of my role is to coordinate the provision of our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities as well as those of some of our more vulnerable children. I am a firm believer in building strong relationships with children and their families. As a school, all of our members of staff are committed to the well-being of your children and work very hard to develop children as well-rounded, happy and confident individuals. The children's PSHE (Personal Social Health and Emotional) learning underpins every other area of learning and it is therefore a high priority for our staff. We value our children's ideas and opinions so therefore use every opportunity to listen to them.

At this time of global pandemic, I am aware of how this has led to an increase in concerns around children's personal, social, emotional and intellectual development. We have set up some links on the website to signpost resources and information, including details of people and services available to families.

The school also aims to implement a range of interventions and strategies for September such as:

- Weekly PSHE lessons
- Open "drop-in" sessions for children with a familiar adult
- Open "drop-in" sessions with SENCO for parents
- Regular up to date advice and contact from outside consultants, for e.g. Educational Psychologists, CAMHS
- Catch-up tutoring targeting specific children as identified by class teachers

I look forward to working with you in September and throughout the year. You can contact me by emailing the school office or calling the school between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm. Ultimately, you know your child better than anyone so if you do have any worries or concerns, please feel free to contact me – it would be great to meet as many of you as possible.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday time wherever you may be.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Murphy