

Spring Two: Friday 12th March 2021

Welcome Back!

Wow! Simply one word to describe how the children have returned to school.

The resilience from children this week has been fantastic: they have adapted to the routines and structures of school again exceptionally well and have tried really hard in their learning. Many smiles have been seen through the corridors and outside. We are so happy to have all of our children back together.



Maths and English Lessons



In English this week, each year group has been focusing on "Visual Literacy" and working towards retelling the narrative in their own way on Friday. They have had the opportunity to explore the story through story maps, hot seating, role-play and sequencing as well as taking part in a 'slow write' where teachers work with the children to include specific language and punctuation and then attempt this themselves. The children should be really proud of the learning so far. We can't wait to showcase some of the final pieces on our school website!

In maths this week, children have been focusing on number and place value. They have plenty of opportunities to use the manipulatives (cubes, diennes, place value counters, counting sticks etc.) to secure their understanding and have been attempting some really tricky problems where they have got to justify their answers in different ways. Well done everyone!

PE days

At this moment, we are asking that children just bring a sensible pair of shoes to school with them to use during PE lessons. Girls may also bring shorts if they wish to wear under their dress. Children's PE days are as follows:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
EYFS					
Y1					
Y2					
Y3					
Y4					
Y5					
Y6					

Communication within School

Can you please ensure that the school office has your most recent contact numbers along with two other forms of contact.

Parent Mail is our main source of communication to share information with parents; please ensure you have the app downloaded to access up to date information. If you are unsure of this, please see the attached PDF document.

Pupil Voice



Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing some questionnaires via Parent Mail to gather children's opinions and voices on the different subjects they learn about in school.

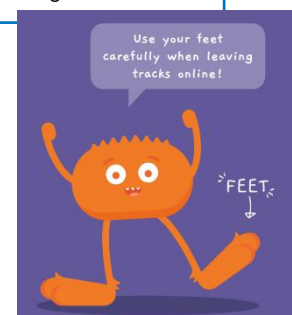
We would really appreciate parents and carers taking the time to sit down with children to complete these to allow us to reflect on our practice across school.

E-Safety

All children have taken part in E-Safety lessons this week to support with their return to school. We are very aware that children have had much more access to devices and the internet whilst at home so teachers have discussed the idea of "Digital Footprint and Identity".

Children have learnt about how to be safe, respectable and responsible online as well as how what we post online can affect their identities. Children have also explored the idea of what the benefits and drawbacks of presenting their selves in a different way online is and how online activity can affect not only themselves but others as well.

Examples of children's learning will soon be on the website to showcase their fantastic knowledge.



Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will take place in Week 6 of the spring term (week beginning 29th March).

These will be via Microsoft Teams as they were in the Autumn term.

We think it is important to leave it until Week 6 to allow the children to settle back into school full.

We will share the exact days and times next week with parents/carers.

School Uniform

Well done to those children that have returned to school in their full uniform.

Please can we ensure that children come to school in correct school shoes and full uniform including coats where needed.

Red Nose Day – Friday 19th March

To celebrate Red Nose Day, children can come to school dressed in something red on Friday 19th March.

Children can also donate £1 To Comic Relief via the just giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-alban-s-c-of-e-academy?newPage=True>

Heart Focused Breathing and Wellbeing in School

Across school, we have introduced a morning and afternoon session of 'heart focused breathing'. This approach gives children the opportunity to explore their feelings and allows them to learn how to send positive feelings from the heart as well as help control their emotions and think more clearly throughout the day.

We have also introduced short, daily wellbeing sessions that focus on: thoughtfulness, mindful breathing, mindful looking, visualisation and thought awareness. These are used throughout the day to support children, as we are very aware it is very different returning back to school and getting into the routines again.