



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a pleasure and a privilege it is to write my first newsletter for St. Alban's! I have enjoyed my first fortnight at the school so much and I really hope that your children have returned from school each day with the same buzz that I have. The school has really felt alive with learning these first few weeks where we have been exploring our school expectations, our learning bees and the positive consequences for our superb behaviour!

Lots of exciting things have been happening in school: We have seen the arrival of some avatars across all classroom as each child in our school has earnt Dojo points! See below to find out about our positive consequences! We have been celebrating our Christian Values too with a focus of these in worship time. Together, we have agreed on how we should organise our classrooms, how we should walk around school and what the expectations are for sitting in worship time as well as during lunch time.

Staff have been busy planning educational visits with all year groups and we look forward to sharing the exciting trips to off-site locations and local areas in the very near future. We shall be giving an overview for the whole year to give as much notice as possible for payment contributions.

I have tried to learn as many names as possible over these first few weeks and I have begun to meet lots of faces at the front gate each morning as well as at lunch time and throughout the day. I have really enjoyed getting to know your children – they truly are the beating heart of St Alban's and I'm sure that we shall have a fabulous year if we continue as we have started this term!

***Thank you for your continued support to
enable our children with***

***Learning, Growing and Exploring together
with God.***

Important Dates for the diary

**Please use our school website to find
our school term dates for this next year.**

- **Friday 15th September 2023** –
Year 2 trip to Warwick Castle
- **Wednesday 20th September 2023** –
Year 3 walk to Ashmore Moat.
- **Thursday 21st September 2023** –
NEW arranged date for Coffee Morning
9:00 – 9:30am
- **Wednesday 27th September 2023** -
2:15pm
Year 6 parent workshop – Residential and
SATS prep

Attendance and punctuality

It is understandable and acceptable that any child may be late on an odd occasion for any number of reasons, all of which should be verified by the parent/carer. However, persistent lateness in school causes disruption by the arrival of latecomers. It is also often embarrassing for the pupil to be constantly arriving late too.

5 minutes late every day = 3.5 days missed each
year

10 minutes late every day = 7.2 days missed
each year

20 minutes late every day = 14.4 days missed
each year

We want to see your child on time everyday to
help them make good progress!

Each week, we shall be awarding a Dojo point for
being on time and in school every day! We shall
be recognising the class with the best attendance
by awarding a certificate and extra playtime too!

Each term will shall be celebrating excellent
attendance with wrist bands and certificates!

We shall also be offering some parent incentives
for excellent attendance so keep your eyes peeled
for an update!

Outreach Service Support

The Wolverhampton Outreach Service offers support to mainstream practitioners to enable them to further meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). Please see below for the Parent Offer from Outreach for next academic year. These parent sessions are open to all parents who feel they may benefit from them. It is also a great opportunity for parents to meet other parents from the city who are going through similar situations.

Wednesday 27th September: Makaton Taster Session with Adam Millichip

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 11th October: Masking in Autism with Alison Egerton

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 25th October: Self-harm and self-injurious behaviour with Eve Griffiths

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 29th November: Understanding ADHD with Nigel Boot

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 20th December: SEND Support with Wolverhampton Information Advice and Support Service

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 31st January: Helping your child understand their diagnosis with Alison Egerton

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 28th February: SEND Sibling Support with Sophie Banks

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 13th March: ADHD: Mental Health and Managing Feelings with Nigel Boot

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 24th April: Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) with Alison Egerton

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 22nd May: Deep Pressure with Eve Griffiths

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 26th June: Mental Health for parents and children/young people with Rachel Watson

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 17th July: Summer Schemes and SEND Inclusive Organisations with Rachel Watson

Venue: Warstones Primary School 10:00 -12:00

Scan the QR code to get yourself booked on to these events....



Class Dojo

As a whole school, we have been relaunching our school expectations and Christian Values and talking about what they look like in action around school. When we spot any of our school expectations in action, we reward each individual with a Dojo point and these result in positive consequences. Children will collect these as individuals and they can also work together as a class to gain some class rewards – as you can see, we have planned a popcorn party if the class total reaches 2000 by Christmas!



St Alban's Positive Consequences



<u>Number of points</u>	<u>Coloured belt</u>	<u>Individual Reward</u>	<u>Class Reward</u>
25	Red	The great escape – the egg hatches!	End of Autumn – Earn 2000 points – a popcorn party with a film
50	Orange	Upgrade your Avatar!	
75	Yellow	VIP seat for the day	
100	Green	Hot Chocolate with Mrs Wooldridge	
150	Blue	15 minutes iPad time	End of Spring – Earn 4000 points – a visit to the library and park
200	Purple	Outdoor learning time and another avatar update	
250	White	30 minutes to visit a class of your choice.	
300	Black	Job Squad – select a job or jobs of your choice to be a role model in.	End of Summer – Earn 6000 points – a fun day on the playground

Each belt will also get a positive postcard home in the belt colour achieved.



Our School Expectations

Forgiveness

We forgive and move forward as one.

Friendship

We are kind and considerate and look after each other as a family.

Justice

We value that we are all unique, and treat each other equally and with respect.

Perseverance

We continue to try our best even when we face a challenge.

Thankfulness

We keep our class, school and community clean and tidy.

Trust

We keep ourselves and others safe.

Attendance

We will attend school and be on time.

Uniform

We will always wear the correct school uniform.

High Aspirations

We challenge ourselves to be the best we can be.

Learning Behaviours

We will aspire to show our positive learning behaviours.

Values and expectations

We have agreed on some school expectations which supports all children to understand what we expect and value in every element of our school day. We aspire to build our Christian Values to make us better global citizens and to ensure our school and the community that we serve are a pleasant, enjoyable place for all!

We are awarding Dojo points for our school expectations and Values.

Uniform –

It really is lovely to see all of the children wearing their school uniform when they are sat together in worship – they look so smart and proud to represent St Alban's!

Just a reminder to write names in all school jumpers and cardigans and to also label coats, lunchboxes and water bottles too. We have so many duplicates in school and it will help us to ensure that they are returned to the correct children when they have names clearly written in.

Don't forget to label PE kits and bags too!

Here is your e-safety support poster -

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide forms one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. When young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game, even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time, seat in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting pools or tasks might be useful if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together. If Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what's (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

David Gwynne is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and esports. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Halo Infinite, Roblox and Minecraft. With over 10 years of experience, he has reviewed more than 90 games and products over the past year.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nosapp.com/about/privacy.html

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Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can contact MASH on: 01902 555392 (9am – 5pm). Out of office hours contact the emergency duty team on 01902 552999 or in an emergency call 999. Alternatively, you can call Child Line on 0800 1111 or email them by visiting www.childline.org.

Please also feel free to come and speak to either Mrs Wooldridge, Mrs Abbiss, or Miss Bradford. We will always listen and try to help.