



Spring Term: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023



## Important Dates



- **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January- Ian Billings Workshops**
- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - Traditional fairy tales stay and play for Nursery**
- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Dress in Blue for Water Aid**
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February- Phonics stay and play for Reception.**
- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February- Safer internet day**
- **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Year 6 trip to Carding Mill Valley**
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February- Children's Mental Health focus day**
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – EYFS trip to Lower Drayton Farm**
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Final day of term**
- **Half Term- Monday 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> February**
- **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February- INSET Day (School closed to pupils)**
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Children return to school**
- **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March World Book Day**
- **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Y5 provisional date for Space Centre trip**
- **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March- INSET Day (School closed to pupils)**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to the children who entered the art competition. We have been delighted with all the entries- thank you. Every child has received a small thank you for entering. Miss Walker is selecting a few to be framed so they can be proudly displayed in school. I will share the winning entries once these have been decided.

Life at St Alban's continues to be as busy as ever! The children are working hard. I am always very proud when I see children coming to show me their work and I'm thrilled with our school worship counsellors, as they have planned a fund-raising event for next Friday for Water Aid. They were very brave at sharing their ideas to the whole school during worship this week. See below for more information.

Teachers have a lot of exciting events planned, starting next Tuesday with a creative story book workshop. The following week, we have another mufti day for Children's Mental Health week. World Book Day is straight after half term, and the teachers are also planning trips so that children can experience learning outside of the classroom- they are always great fun!

I'm also looking forward to seeing parents, grandparents and carers come to the EYFS events too. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated team of staff that want to make learning so much fun and memorable. Don't forget you're always most welcome to come and see us if you have any queries or issues that you wish to discuss.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.  
Mrs Joanne Robinson



### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Blue Water Day

**Our school Worship Counsellors have decided to raise awareness of global issues and selected Water Aid as their chosen charity for this term. Earlier this week, the counsellors planned and delivered worship informing the children about the vision for Water Aid. On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February we are asking children to come to school dressed in blue. We are aiming to raise money for Water Aid to support their vision to ensure everyone, everywhere has safe and sustainable water, sanitation, and global hygiene. We ask for children to donate £1.00. This is because they want all children to live their lives to the full.**

**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](http://www.childline.org). However, please feel free to come and speak to either Mrs Robinson, Mrs Abbiss, or Mrs Headland. We will always listen and try to help.



### 31st January Story Workshops

We are excited to welcome Ian Billings to St Alban's to deliver some interactive story workshops across school. Ian is a children's author and stand-up comic who recently appeared in 'Aladdin' at The Wolverhampton Grand. During the workshops, the children will take part in puppetry, creative writing and musical opportunities. Some information about the rest of the creative team can be found below:

**STEPHANIE DALE** - is an accomplished playwright who founded the MA in Playwriting at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, has written several radio plays for BBC Radio Four and community plays throughout the country.  
<https://www.stephaniedale.org>

**VIKESH GODHWANI** - is a freelance theatre producer, director and writer who graduated with an MA in Arts and Cultural Management from King's College London whose play "Blanket Ban" was met with great acclaim at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe <https://www.chalklinetheatre.com/who-we-are>

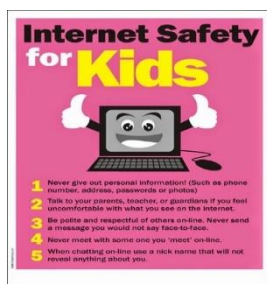
**ELLIOT DITTON** - is a professional puppeteer who trained at Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and has worked on the national tour of "The Lion King" and is currently working on "My Neighbour Totoro" at the Barbican, London.  
<https://www.elliotditton.com/theatre>

Keep your eyes peeled for photos on our next newsletter!



### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Y5 Q&A with Astronauts

On Thursday, Year 5 will have the special opportunity to take part in a live STEM session virtually with NASA astronauts at the Saxavord Space Station! There will be a panel of astronauts for children to ask questions, and there is a special VIP guest, Helen Sharman, who is Britain's first astronaut.



### Tuesday 7th February - Safer Internet Day

Children will be taking part in Safer Internet Day where they will explore issues from cyberbullying to social networking to digital identity. Each year Safer Internet Day aims to raise awareness of emerging online issues and current concerns and support children in know how to address these.



### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Children's Mental Health Week Focus Day

This year's theme is Let's Connect. Children will take part in a whole school assembly to raise awareness as well as taking part in opportunities within the classroom to explore how they can come together to help each other, look at different ways they are connected and understanding the different ways we can connect. Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February will also be a non-uniform day where children are encouraged to "Dress to Express Themselves". We ask that a donation is made to the Place 2 Be charity to support a very worthwhile cause: by getting involved, you can help get closer to a future where every child has easy access to mental health support.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CMHW2023>

