Autumn 1 2026

St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Learning and growing with God by our side.



Year 6 at the Isle of Wight



Key Stage 2 PTA Disco



Our beautiful new Living Wall being planted by the children

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a busy and productive start to the Autumn term at SSAS. The children have settled into their new classes and routines exceptionally well, quickly establishing a positive atmosphere for learning across both sites. Thank you to everyone who attended our recent parent consultations-it was a valuable opportunity to discuss how the children have transitioned into their new year groups and set goals for the year ahead.

We have already squeezed so much into this first half term. Our Year 6 pupils had a brilliant time on their residential trip to the Isle of Wight. They tackled outdoor challenges with great energy, built strong team skills, and represented the school fantastically throughout the week.

Poetry Week brought wonderful rhyme and performance across the school, while during Black History Week, pupils discovered that Black history is an important part of our shared British heritage, and that even a small artefact can reveal a remarkable story!

We are also very grateful to our PTA for organising such brilliant events. From the energy of the KS1 and KS2 discos to our well-attended Autumn Fayre, these fundraising events brought our school community together. A special thank you also goes to Rosewood Living Walls for generously donating a brand-new Living Wall to our KS2 prayer garden.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have all had a relaxing half-term break, and we look forward to the second half of the autumn term.

Ms T. Hackett
Head of School

Catholic Life

St Teresa's Feast Day

St Teresa's House gathered for an afternoon of reflection and community. Father Michael shared how St Teresa chose to live among the poor and dedicate her life to serving others. After writing prayers of hope on yellow hearts for our prayer table, everyone celebrated with extra playtime and ice lollies in the sunshine!



Welcome Mass

We celebrated our annual Welcome Mass with Fr Michael. at Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Church. Our new Pupil Chaplaincy Team led the readings and offertory beautifully as they were officially commissioned for their roles for the year ahead.



Harvest Festival

This half term, our Catholic Social Teaching focus has been Community and Participation. Putting our faith into action, our school community gathered generous donations for the St Albans Food Bank. Our Pupil Chaplaincy Team, alongside Fr John, led a special Harvest Liturgy. Thank you to everyone who donated food and goods.

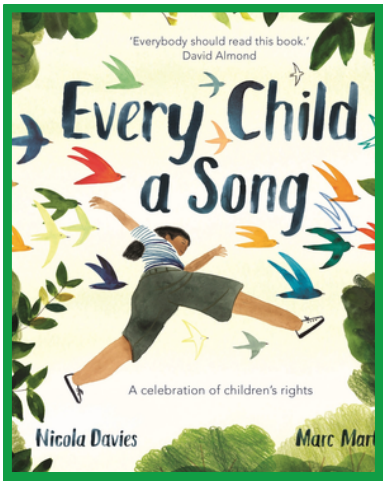


Month of the Rosary

Throughout October, we marked the Month of the Rosary with dedicated assemblies and class reflection. Children brought their own Rosary beads into school to participate in the global One Million Children Praying the Rosary initiative, joining with schools around the world to pray for peace and unity.

Global Dignity

On Global Dignity Day in October, we learnt that we all deserve dignity as children made in the image of God. Using our school theme book for the year, 'Every Child a Song', we explored how everyone is born with a unique voice to be heard, linking our reflections to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Each pupil created a piece of artwork to contribute to a vibrant whole-school Dignity display. You can listen to our school song for the year here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=cieunfrMdWQ



School Development Plan 2026-27

During our recent Parent Coffee Morning, we shared our new School Development Plan. These are our focus areas for the coming year, based on feedback from staff, pupils and parents, observations and assessment data. We will keep you updated on our progress!

Focus Area	Aim
Catholic Life and Mission	High-quality, authentic **prayer and liturgy** across all key stages.
Quality of Teaching	High-impact teaching that secures mastery of **strong foundational skills (the basics- spelling, handwriting, reading, arithmetic).**
Inclusion	Maintain a culture of high expectations where precise **scaffolding** supports learners and deep **challenge** stretches them, so that every pupil makes progress.
Attendance & Behaviour / Personal Development & Wellbeing	**Enrich the curriculum** by building vibrant partnerships.
Governance	**Future-proofing our School**: Ensure our educational provision and community continues to thrive regardless of external pressures- budget, pupil numbers, staffing changes.

Attendance

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting your child's regular attendance at school so far this term and ensuring that our attendance remains strong and above the national average.

	Attendance	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Lates
SSAS	96.8%	2.5%	0.7%	0.8%
National	95.4%	3.1%	1.5%	

Important Dates Coming Up

- Friday 6.11.26 EYFS Parents' Maths Workshop
- Thursday 12.11.26 9.15 and 6pm Open Day Tours for Prospective Parents- please recommend us to your friends and neighbours with younger children!
- Friday 13.11.26 Odd Socks Day
- Friday 13.11.26 Postponed Green-Fingered Families Volunteer Day
- Friday 13.11.26 EYFS Parents' Phonics Workshop
- Friday 20.11.26 Year 4 Curriculum Assembly
- Friday 20.11.26 Parents' Handwriting Workshop
- Friday 27.11.26 Parent Coffee Morning- meet the SENDCo
- Monday 30.11.26 School closed- Occasional Day
- Friday 4.12.26 Reception Nativity Play
- Friday 11.12.26 Key Stage 1 Nativity Play
- Monday 14.12.26 Key Stage 2 Advent Carol Service at Ss Alban & Stephen
- Wednesday 16.12.26 Christmas lunch & Christmas jumper day
- Friday 18.12.26 Nursery Christmas Concert
- Friday 18.12.26 PTA Elf Event



Hedgehog made by Nursery

For full listings and timings, check the website and weekly Diary Dates.