



St Albert the Great Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter

Monday 20th February 2012

Building Work

Since our last newsletter Nevilles have been confirmed as the contractor who will be undertaking the first stage of the building work at St. Albert's. Those of you who have been to school today will have noticed that no time has been wasted and that they have already begun work. A fence has been erected around the field and the Nursery shed has been moved. This is so that the bore holes could be drilled to investigate the underground conditions where the new building will be located. An ecology survey in the Spinney has also been undertaken and a sound analysis completed.

Meanwhile, work on our existing building has also been carried out. A glazier has replaced the cracked windows and the leaks in the roof have been mended. In addition to this, the heating problems have hopefully been resolved and the door to the field between the hall and Year 3 has been fixed.



Punctuality and Attendance

Learning at St. Albert's begins promptly at 8:55am, straight after the registers have been taken. In fact, from 8:45am the children are provided with learning or reinforcement activities to help them prepare for the day or to revise learning from previous lessons. For this reason, it is essential that the children arrive at school punctually and in the right frame of mind to learn. Dinner registers are also completed during this time and lunch numbers are sent down to the kitchen. If a child arrives at school after 8:55am they are marked as late, after 9:05am they are marked as absent. During this half term we are going to be monitoring children's arrival times and, unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will be contacting parents if pupils arrive late.

The school attendance officer will be visiting St. Albert's in March. She will be checking each pupil's attendance and may be contacting parents if their child's attendance is below 95%.

World Book Day Celebrations – fancy dress, bring and buy book sale and café

Following the success of the Indian Day, raising funds for Loreto School in Sealdah, **St. Bernadette House** are now organising a fundraising celebration day to mark World Book Day on **Thursday 1st March**. They are asking that all the children in the school, dress up as their favourite book character and enter a **fancy dress parade** sharing their enjoyment of books they have read.

They are also going to be organising a **bring and swap book sale** and invite **each child to bring in a book**, in good condition. The books will then be organised centrally and the children will then have the opportunity to select another book. Books can be brought in any time from Monday 27th February 2012.

The children in St. Bernadette House will be bringing in cakes, which they will be serving at their **café** throughout the day. To take part in all this fun, the children in St. Bernadette House are requesting that each child brings in £1. As a house the children will decide which charity to support.

www.worldbookday.com

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

1 MARCH 2012



Sports News

A team of Year 5 and Year 6 athletes took part in the Hertfordshire Primary Schools Cross Country Championships held on February 4th at St. Albans. All the team: **Sasha Brooks, Molly Lansdowne, Jasmine Tunstall, Michal Allain, Michael Ochser, William Hamilton and Thomas Watts** completed the 1.6 km course - in freezing conditions. What determination! Molly showed true courage after being pushed over at the start. Nursing a sore back, she completed the course all on her own! Well done to all runners!

Good News



"The more I learn about the world in which I live the closer I grow to God"



	<u>Star of the Week</u>	<u>Finer Diner</u>
Foundation Stage 1		
Foundation Stage 2	Freddie Frogell-Mason	Daniel Watts
Year 1:	Macie Gibbs	Ann-Marie Chijuka
Year 2:	To be announced on Friday	George Taylor
Year 3:	George Keen	Matipa Padzakashamba
Year 4:	Oliver Chubb	Caroline Gibbon
Year 5:	Harry Baird	Clodagh Murray
Year 6:	Leila Rhiba	Hanna Beckers
Breakfast Club	Heather Hurley	

20 Excellence House Points: Congratulations to Oliver Chubb and Kayla Grace for obtaining their 'Inspiration' wristbands and **Aaron Harburn** for achieving his 'Determination' wristband.

Classes of the Week: **Year 2** and **Year 4**

Attendance winners of the Week: **Year 4 (97.9%)**

Birthdays

Some children celebrated their birthdays during half term. **Morgan Lamb, Anthony Burchell, Luis Streets, Daniel Ifode** and **Maddy Venn** we hope that you had a wonderful day.

Some children in our school will be celebrating their birthday during the next week. **Lillian Durrant** and **William Hamilton**. We hope you both a very happy birthday.



Upcoming Events

Monday 20 th February	Welcome Assembly for new pupils
Tuesday 21 st February	Year 6 Adoration at Our Lady's
Wednesday 22 nd February	Whole School Ash Wednesday Mass at Our Lady's (9:30am)
Thursday 23 rd February	Street Dance Lunch Club starting
Friday 24 th February	Year 2 Athletics Competition at Berkhamsted
Monday 27 th February	Good News Assembly (9:05am)
Tuesday 28 th February	Year 6 Athletics Competition at JFK
Wednesday 29 th February	Year 4 Adoration at Our Lady's
Wednesday 29 th February	Year 1 at Milton Keynes Museum
Thursday 1 st March	Foundation Stage 1 Open Morning (existing parents)
Friday 2 nd March	World Book Day
	Foundation Stage 1 Open Morning for prospective parents



Joseph with two of his Year 4 friends

Interview with Joseph Howse (Year 4 pupil and actor in Upstairs Downstairs) (Questions compiled by Year 4)

What role did you play in the series?

I played a person called Cyril Soaper, who was a servant. My jobs were to help with the cooking, polish silver and to tidy the servants' rooms.

How many people auditioned for the part?

I heard about the part online. There were 17 children who were auditioned for the part. Originally the character's name was Billy but then they changed it.

Why do you think that they chose you to play Cyril?

I had to go a theatre in London for the audition two weeks before Christmas. I used lots of punctuation and expression when I read the script and I think that helped.

How did you feel when you got the part?

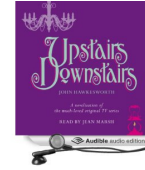
"The more I learn about the world in which I live the closer I grow to God"



I was surprised because it was my first audition. I felt nervous because I haven't been on television before but I was very happy at the same time

Where did the filming take place?

We were in Bristol and Wales in old fashioned houses and an old fashioned park.



Describe your favourite scene.

When I was supposed to wet the bed and I was smacked on the legs by my mum and dad at the same the same time. I enjoyed it because it was fun. Luckily I don't wet the bed in real life!

How long did the filming take?

It did take a long time and they did call people in and out a lot. We started filming at 7:30am and the children finished at 3:00pm but the adults had to stay until 8:00pm. We haven't quite finished, I have to go back to do another scene this month.

How did you spend your breaks?

We spent our breaks in our room and in the café. We also spent time talking to Anne Reed, who plays the cook, who is my aunt, and other famous people who were acting in the programme. I found out a little bit about their lives and other shows that they had been in.

Did you meet anybody famous? Who?

My father in the programme was in Phone Shop, he was called Tom. My mum was in Holby City and The Bill. I used to go to the café with her and Anne Reed. Niamh would buy me a cake.

How many people were on set and did you feel nervous?

There were a lot of people on set and the rooms were really small so people kept falling over. Backstage there were loads of televisions so we could watch what was happening on set.

When I was acting I felt confident because I know that I could do it well if I used my expression.

Did you have to learn any lines?

Yes, I had to learn about 13 lines. It wasn't hard because I put them on my i-pod and listened to them. My sister helped me by videoing me and then I watched myself back and said the lines at the right time.

Have you auditioned for anything since?

Yes, I auditioned for a play called 'Gypsy'. It is a little bit like 'Grease' and was at Watford Palace Theatre. I didn't get that part but I'm hoping that I will get the next one that I go for.

I would like to do some programmes on the Disney Channel because when I was filming I didn't like the adults using words that were inappropriate and I don't think that that would happen with children's television. I would like to be in a programme called 'Shake it Up' because there is acting and dancing in it and I like both.

What did the series teach you about life in the 1930s?

It taught me about what it would be like to live at that time. There were a lot of rules about what to wear and how to do things. It also taught me about the life of a servant, equipment that people used that we don't have these days and the type of food that people ate.

When is Upstairs Downstairs showing in television?

The series started on Sunday 19th February but the episode I am in is next week I think. (Sunday 26th February). If you miss it you can watch it on i-player but it is more for grown ups than children.



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