



## St Albert the Great Catholic Primary School

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

Tuesday, 06 September 2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you had a good break and that you managed to relax, have fun and enjoy the time off school. Didn't the holiday speed by? We start the year positively, with an exciting year ahead. The staff are very much looking forward to working with you again this year and, despite being in school for many days during the holidays sorting out their classrooms, their batteries are re-charged and everyone is ready for the work, challenges and pleasure that each academic year brings.

### **Welcome to ...**

I would like to offer a warm welcome all our new children and parents. We are looking forward to working with you all and hope that you very quickly feel part of the St. Albert's community.

As the parents of our more established children know, Mrs. Mason has taken a year's sabbatical to go travelling and so we welcome Miss Chloe Beesley, who will be teaching our Year 3 class, to St. Albert's. Meanwhile, Miss Sian West will be joining our team of midday supervisors whilst Mrs. Buzzle and Mrs. Ochser will be joining our Learning Support Team. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Kretzel have also been employed to run our Nursery / Pre-school Lunch Club. Many of our new members of staff are known to you and I'm sure that you will join me in wishing them all luck in their new roles at our school.

### **Vision Statement for the St. Albert the Great School Family**

Our school Mission Statement, a quote from St. Albert – 'The more I learn about the world in which I live, the closer I grow to God' – underpins all that we do at our school. This short sentence summarises our school's reason for being. This is reinforced by our school's Vision Statement which expressed, not what our school is but what we hope to become. We will continue to raise the profile of our Vision Statement this year, and will strive to meet our goal.

The readings during Mass yesterday (Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20) were all about supporting one another in society and the roles and responsibilities of being part of a community. This year, taking inspiration from John F. Kennedy's Inauguration speech in 1961, I ask all our children, staff, parents, carers and governors to ask themselves not what the school can do for them but what they can do for the school.

### **Results from the RE Inspection (July 2011)**

We are delighted to now be allowed to officially share the outcomes from the RE Inspection that took place last term. Mrs. Nolan, the Diocesan Inspector who also works as an Ofsted Inspector, was very impressed with the school and praised the many things that we do at St. Albert's that she had not seen in other schools.



	Inspection Judgements: 1 = excellent 2 = good 3 = satisfactory 4 = inadequate	Inspection Judgement
1.	How effective is the provision of Catholic education?	2
2.	The effectiveness of any steps taken to promote improvement since the last inspection.	2
3.	The capacity of the school community to make further improvements.	2
4.	How effective are leadership and management in developing the Catholic life of the school?	2
5.	How good is the provision for prayer, collective worship and the liturgical life of the school?	1
6.	How effectively does the school / college promote community cohesion?	2
7.	How well do learners achieve?	2
8.	How effective are teaching and learning?	2
9.	How well does the Religious Education curriculum meet aspirations of the Church community and the needs and interests of learners?	1

**Areas to develop:**

1. Refine target setting procedures
2. Support teachers to obtain the CCRS qualification

If you would like to read the report please ask for a paper copy at the school office.

**A new approach to behaviour management at St. Albert's**

You may remember that our recent Ofsted Inspection graded the behaviour in the school as 'good'. With this, and the forthcoming Olympics in mind, we have decided to review our Behaviour Policy.

We will all be continuing to wear our **IALAC (I am Lovely and Clever) badges** this year. To ensure that everyone's badge stays intact each class will have an **Olympic value** to promote through assemblies and their actions towards others. During the first assembly of this academic year the classes chose the values below.

<u>Foundation Stage 1:</u> <b>Friendship</b>	<u>Year 3:</u>	<b>Courage</b>
<u>Foundation Stage 2:</u> <b>Respect</b>	<u>Year 4:</u>	<b>Inspiration</b>
<u>Year 1:</u> <b>Determination</b>	<u>Year 5:</u>	<b>WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?)</b>
<u>Year 2:</u> <b>Excellence</b>	<u>Year 6:</u>	<b>Equality</b>

All the children will be awarded house points each time they demonstrate that they have promoted a value and these will be recorded in their **Olympic Passports**. Once they have achieved 20 house points for a value, they will be awarded a **wrist band** during a whole school assembly, which they will be allowed to wear in school. They will also have their photo put on a school display. The aim is that by July 2012, all the children will have a good understanding of the Olympic values which will have become a way of life and all the children will be proudly wearing 8 different coloured wrist bands.

We will also be implementing a **'Behaviour Ladder'** throughout the school. This is currently being discussed and agreed with the children in all the classes and will be shared with parents during the Curriculum Mornings. The 'Behaviour Ladder' strategies rewarding good behaviour and addressing inappropriate actions will ensure consistency throughout the school.

We have also thought about behaviour in the dining room and this term will introducing the **'Finer Diner Award'**. One child from each class, who has demonstrated good behaviour, manners and eating habits during lunchtime will be selected each week to be a 'Finer Diner'. These children, and a chosen friend, will sit at a special table in the dining room during the following week and will be at the front of the lunch queues.



**Termly Awards** are also going to be introduced this year. Each term school staff will liaise to identify children who deserve to win these very special awards. The prizes for the award winners will be days out and the PTFA have kindly agreed to donate some funds for this cause. Possible trips will include going to the cinema, going on a canal boat ride, attending the Schools' Westminster Diocese Good Shepherd Mass or even a day out in London.

Autumn term	Attitude to School Life Award Expressive Arts Award
Spring term	Attitude to School Life Award Citizenship Award
Summer term	Attitude to School Life Award Sporting Award

### **Building Work**

As you may have noticed, more building work was undertaken during the Summer Holiday. The work that was carried out continues what has been completed in past years, making our school a safer, brighter and more stimulating place in which to learn.

The paving stones outside the school foyer, along with those in the Anniversary Garden, have been taken up and re-laid so that they provide a safer surface. In addition, the Foundation Stage 2 outdoor learning area has had a make over and I'm sure that you will agree that it is now a far more inspiring learning environment for some of the youngest children in our school. At this point I would like to thank the West Herts. Youth Offending Team who gave up their time to paint the fence around the Infant playground. Their hard work and the care they took is much appreciated and has had a positive impact on our school environment.

The building work that was carried out during the Summer will be paid for using some of the LCVAP funding that we were allocated by the Diocese. The Governors are working collaboratively with the Diocese, County and Synergy, Johnson and Partners to identify how the remainder of the £650,000 will be best used and the Governors will hopefully be in the position to be able to write to you later in the Autumn term informing you of the decisions made.

### **Curriculum Mornings**

You will have an opportunity to meet your children's new teachers during the **Curriculum Meetings** which will take place next week in the relevant classrooms at 9:05am.

Monday 12th September – **Years 1 and 6**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September – **Years 2 and 4**

Wednesday 14th September – **Years 3 and 5**

Thursday 15<sup>h</sup> September – **Foundation Stage 2**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September – **Foundation Stage 1**

We are anticipating an exciting and enjoyable time ahead, as we continue the ongoing process of reviewing and developing our practice to ensure that we offer the very best to the children in our care. Already, we have had an INSET Day discussing our plans for the year and have included some events that will take place in school to ensure that all the children enjoy their education and reach their potential. We are looking forward working with you to uphold the values and traditions which have made St. Albert's such a special place.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L. Fleming  
Headteacher



## Vision Statement

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

*In my school I learn about God's truth and his love for me. Jesus helps me grow closer to God by showing me how to love. I learn about the Catholic faith and how to belong to the Church. I learn how to pray and trust in God. I learn how to make a difference to other people's lives by showing others that I am a child of God.*

*My school is a loving and caring community where I feel safe, happy and valued. I feel confident in my own abilities and I know that sometimes getting things wrong is part of learning. Everyone listens and supports me and there is always trust and respect.*

*My school is an exciting, vibrant place to be. Everyone is a learner. There are many ways I can express myself and allow my talents to shine. I learn things when I am ready and I can achieve anything I set my mind to if I work hard. I can be proud of myself and of others because all of our achievements are celebrated.*

*I can develop all my skills that will help me to be a good citizen and a faithful witness to Christ in our wonderful and ever changing world. I understand and respect that people have different cultures, values and beliefs and that I am part of a global community. I learn how to be happy through building loving relationships with others, how to respect myself, my planet and my fellow human beings.*

*My school makes me want to be the best that I can be and it gives the opportunity to achieve my dreams.*

***I am a pupil, staff member, parent, governor, friend of St. Albert the Great Catholic Primary school.***

### Beginning of Term Prayer

This is our school,  
Let peace dwell here,  
Let our school be full of contentment,  
Let love abide here,  
Love one another,  
Love of mankind,  
Love of life itself,  
And love of God,  
Let us remember,  
That, as many hands build a house,  
So many hearts make a school.

