



St. Albert the Great Catholic School

05
December
2011

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

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www.albertthegreat.herts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers of the Children of St. Albert the Great,

The rehearsals for the Advent Service and Nativities are in full swing. Sounds of tuneful singing, expressive acting and clear narrations are echoing around the school. The children are looking forward to performing for you and to showing off their talents.

Of course, teaching and learning is still a school priority and this week the teachers will be assessing the progress the children have made since September. There are many factors that can affect this and one of the most important ones is the support the children receive at home. For this reason I thank you, on behalf of the children, for the time you give listening to them read, helping them with their homework and to develop their skills and for helping them arrive at school on time and in the right frame of mind for learning.

I wish you a good week and look forward to seeing you at the Christmas festivities.

Mrs. Fleming
Headteacher



Did you know...

...that teenage pupils who showed the most sustained progress in reading were the youngsters whose parents had read regularly with them when they were younger. Interestingly, the children whose teachers had read with them, rather than their parents, did not make the same amount of progress.

School Website Committee News

Following the very positive parental response regarding our school website the committee have met and are now working with a graphic designer to design our new website. They are incorporating many of your ideas and those of the children. **Congratulations to Emma Lulham, and George and Jack Keen who are joint winners of the 'Design a new website' competition** and thank you to all the children who took the time to enter. The judges were very impressed with the standard of work and all your ideas.

Certificate Winners

	<u>Star of the Week</u>	<u>Finer Diner</u>
	<u>18.11.11</u>	<u>18.11.11</u>
Foundation Stage 1	Rebecca Anderton	
Foundation Stage 2	Lilly Smith	Madelyn Smith
Year 1:	Natalie Krezel	Ashley Harding
Year 2:	Ellie Watts	Jenna White
Year 3:	all of Year 3	Kyle Davies
Year 4:	Caroline Gibbon	Ella Penn
Year 5:	Sophia Young	Harry Baird
Year 6:	Georgia Redman	Fiona Stinton
Breakfast Club	Rebecca Anderton	

Well done
to
you all!

Class of the Week: **Year 1 and Year 5 (18.11.11)** Attendance winners of the Week: **Reception (99.3%) (18.11.11)**
We apologise to Chidubum Nnabuihe-Nwagwu for not putting his name in the Star of the Week section of the last newsletter. He won Star of the Week for his good behaviour and for being a good friend on Friday 11th November.

We welcome Danny Jones in Year 1 and Marcus Tunstall in Year 2 to our school family. We hope that they settle into their new classes quickly and that they enjoy their years at St. Albert's. We also welcome Sidney Mills to the school family. He was born on November 18th and is a little brother for Ruby and Freddie.

CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

The autumn term edition of HAND News, our online newsletter for parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities is now published. It contains information and news about activities, support groups, courses and much more. HAND News can be accessed using the link below:

<http://handnews.hertscc.gov.uk>

In the event of snow:

Whilst we will always aim to keep the school open during periods of heavy snow sometimes this is not possible due to health and safety concerns. Please remember to check you text messages or visit www.hertsdirect.org for up to date information.

Reception Class 2012

The admissions process is now open and anyone making application is reminded that school forms need to be returned to the school office and that an online application to Herts. County Council, at www.hertsdirect.org.uk/admissions, is also required.

Please request a receipt from the office staff when you hand in your application.

Father Raymond will be available to sign the priest's reference form on Wednesday 14th December 11.15am-12.30pm

The deadline for submission of all forms is Sunday 15th January 2012.

Birthdays

Some children in our school will be celebrating their birthday during the next two weeks.

Jessica Anderton, Calogero Morello, Josh Agu and Jack Keen

We hope you have a wonderful day.



DACORUM MUSIC SCHOOL

The Music School is currently offering a wide range of instrumental courses and a Saturday morning music school. For further information go to www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk or call 01442 214599.

SUPPORTING HOMEWORK

If you would like to provide additional homework for your child, you can download copies of past SATs papers from www.emaths.co.uk/ks2SAT.htm



Prayer for the First Week of Advent

O Jesus Christ,
Emmanuel, come and dwell with us.
Desire of all nations;
Gift to every generation,
Come, make your home with us.

All nations, everybody,
is waiting for you,
Indians and Europeans
are waiting for you,
People in New York
are waiting for you.
People in Beijing
are waiting for you.
Jesus, come to us.



Did you know ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money?

Register now to make sure we don't miss out

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

For every child registered St. Albert the Great Primary School gets £488 this year.

With this money we could buy laptops and mobile devices for all the children in the school, purchase Maths and Literacy resources or even provide additional teaching support. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get support for residential trips.

Please register before Christmas to make sure your child and others in their class don't miss out.

How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the list on the next page.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, contact Mrs. Palmer or Mrs Langley who will help you to register.
3. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £350 a year), extra benefits and the school gets £488 extra.
4. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets £488 extra.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

Please talk to us about registering your child today.

Do you qualify?

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

November's events

Wednesday 30th School closed - Industrial Action

December's events

Thursday 1st KS2 Advent Service 2.30pm
Y3 & Y4 Football Club

Friday 2nd Good News Assembly 9.05am including Dance Display
Head Teacher Open Afternoon 1.00pm-3.00pm

Saturday 3rd PTFA Christmas Fair 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Monday 5th Y5 Adoration at Church
Y3 Speed Stacking Festival @ JFK 4.00 - 5.00pm

Tuesday 6th Choir to Westminster Cathedral Advent Service

Wednesday 7th Y5 & Y6 Football Club

Friday 9th Good News Assembly 9.05am
Foundation Stage Nativity 10.30am
Whole School Christmas Lunch
KS1 Nativity 2.00pm
Head Teacher Open Afternoon 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Monday 12th Our Lady's Carol Service 7.30pm

Tuesday 13th New FS2 Parents meeting
Talent show organised by Y5

Wednesday 14th KS2 Panto Albans Arena
Father Raymond Signing School Application Forms 11.15am - 12.30pm

Thursday 15th FS/KS1 Panto

Friday 16th Good News Assembly 9.05am
END OF TERM 1.30pm

PTFA NEWS

A huge thank you to the PTFA and all their helpers for the enormous amount of work they have put into organising and getting ready for the Christmas Fayre. They have given a lot of time to this event and I am sure it will be a great success.