



Where we live 'life to the full'
John 10:10



St Alban's Catholic Primary School

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Monday 24th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday, saw the church celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. In our diocese, we also now call this 'Youth Sunday'. We have now reached the end of the church's year. When we reach the season of Advent, next week, we are moving into Year A, and will typically hear from Matthew's Gospel during the church's year.



Reception Admissions:

The deadline for Reception admissions is January 15th 2026. Please remember that you need to apply to Gateshead Council via their portal. [Primary school admissions September 2026 - Gateshead Council](#)

Please note that we are happy to host a tour if you would like to see what our KS1 and KS2 has on offer.

Staffing Updates:

At the end of this term, Mrs Hill will be sadly taking a well-earned retirement, having worked in education for many years. Miss Curtiss will also be departing from us, too. After a very rigorous recruitment process, we have appointed Miss Lane to teach Year 2, and she will be working with us as part of an effective handover, before Christmas. She has a fantastic skill set, and we are very lucky to have secured her talent.

Some of you may also be aware that Mrs Howe, who has been working with us 1-day a week will also be departing; but Miss Colligan is going to take on the role of SENDCo for the school. We wish Mrs Hill, Miss Curtiss and Mrs Howe every blessing for the future.

Together, with our new teaching assistants, we are really excited for spring 2026 and everything that it will bring.

Reviewing safeguarding procedures:

For Safeguarding and Health and Safety reasons, the main gates to the yard will be locked until 8.50am each morning. If you have a meeting with a member of staff, please ring the intercom to gain access or if you wish to speak with the office staff, please do so once the gates are opened.

Children who are attending clubs before school will be collected from the gate by a staff member. On an evening, the gates will close at 3:40pm and only the main gate on Rothbury Avenue will reopen again at 4:20pm, in order for parents to collect pupils from after-school clubs. Thank you for your understanding.

More Than Dance:

The Year of Hope and Pilgrims ended yesterday, on the Feast of Christ the King. We have therefore booked More Than Dance to come into school in January, to support us in liturgical dance and prayer workshops, so that we can mark this wonderful occasion.

On day 1, our Reception, Years 2/4/6 classes will participate in a liturgical dance workshop and a subsequent sharing at 2:45pm. On day 2, Year 1/3/5 will have their liturgical dance sharing. Please note that we purposely call this a 'sharing' and not a 'performance' because it involves prayer and meditation, too. It is likely that we will host the sharings in church.



Key Stage 2 Advent Carol Service:

Further to our initial newsletter, we have now added an extra Service for our KS2 Advent Carol Service, which will be held in school on Wednesday 17th December at 10am and 2pm. Due to the numbers, we are only able to offer one ticket per child for each service. Tickets are available from the school office.

Advent Donations for Vinnies (St. Dominic's, Newcastle):

As per previous years, throughout Advent our Mini-Vinnies are collecting donations for a 'reverse Advent calendar' to give to Vinnies, in Newcastle which is based at St. Dominic's. Each class will have items to donate and will be collecting up until Friday 12th December, when donations will be sent to Vinnies.



EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Cereal Porridge oats Cereal bars	Pasta Rice Pasta sauce	Jam Tinned food	Toothbrushes Toothpaste soap
Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	
Tea Coffee Hot chocolate Biscuits	Shower gel Shampoo Conditioner	Washing up liquid Small pack of toilet roll Christmas treat	



Year 4 Residential:

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended the parental information session for YMT. Please note that we urgently require final numbers. If you have not registered your child, then please inform us by Wednesday 26th November, if you intend to send them.

Angels of Hope:

In preparation for the end of the Year of Hope, all pupils have been making Angel promises to explain how the Year of Hope has had the power to transform lives. They will be on display in our main corridor.



Celebration of the Word Services:

From January 2026, we will be hosting a weekly family Celebration of the Word service in St. Alban's room, on a rotation basis, in addition to the class Masses. These celebrations will be 'pupil-planned and pupil led' and we have included the dates and times in our calendar. We look forward to seeing you there. Our Celebration of the Word services will commence on a Wednesday at 3pm.

Wednesday 14th January – Year 6 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 21st January – Year 5 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 28th January – Year 4 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 4th February – Year 3 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 11th February – Year 2 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 18th February – Year 4-6 Class Mass for Ash
Wednesday – 10am
Wednesday 4th March – Year 1 - Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 11th March – Reception Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Friday 20th March – Stations of the Cross – 2:45pm in Church (Year 6 to lead)
Wednesday 25th March – Year 5 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 15th April – Year 4 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 22nd April – Year 3 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 29th April – Year 2 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 6th May – Year 1 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 13th May – Reception Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Friday 22nd May – Year 6 Class Mass – 10am
Wednesday 3rd June – Year 6 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 10th June – Year 5 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 17th June – Year 4 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 24th June – Year 3 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 1st July – Year 2 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 8th July – Year 1 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 15th July – Reception Celebration of the Word service – 3pm



Parental Workshops:



Thank you to all those who came to our phonics and numbersense workshops. We really hope you enjoyed listening to our curriculum and learning about how you can support your child at home.

Children In Need:

On Friday 14th November, we raised £182 for Child In Need – a huge thank you to those who brought in cakes and then donated to raise funds for this valuable cause.



Christmas Jumper Day:

We are holding Christmas day lunch alongside Christmas jumper day on Tuesday 9th December. Lunches will be available to purchase on Arbor and we ask for £1 donation for the NSPCC to be paid direct via this link www.nspcc.org.uk – click donate – single payment.

Dates for the Diary

(Please note that these dates are subject to change) – please note that educational visits are being confirmed and dates will be released in due course

Thursday 27th November – EY and KSI Gymnastics Day

Thursday 27th November – Year 5 Visit to Jarrow Hall

Monday 1st December – Flu Immunisation Session

Thursday 4th December – Christmas Fayre – 3.45pm (or as close to as possible)

Friday 5th December – Year 5 Class Mass

Friday 5th December – Year 5 and Year 6 Dance City Ballet - PM session

Monday 8th December – Choir Club singing in Eldon Square

Tuesday 9th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day £1 donation payable via NSPCC

Wednesday 10th December – KSI Performance – 2pm

Thursday 11th December – KSI Performance – 10am

Friday 12th December – Pantomime visit to Tyne Theatre for Year 1 to Year 6

Monday 15th December – EY Christmas Performance – 10am and 2pm

Wednesday 17th December – Key Stage 2 Advent Carol Service **in SCHOOL** – 10am and 2pm

Wednesday 17th December – Nursery and Reception visit to West Boldon Lodge

Thursday 18th December – Movie Night all classes

Friday 19th December- Whole School Christmas Parties

Return to school on Monday 5th January 2026

Tuesday 6th January – Whole-School Mass led by Year 4 for Epiphany

Thursday 8th January – KS2 Fencing Day

Wednesday 14th January – Year 6 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th January Year 4 Residential - Emmaus Village

Tuesday 20th January – More Than Dance Workshop and Prayer for Reception and Years 2/4/6 – with a sharing in church at 2:45pm

Wednesday 21st January – Year 5 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Thursday 22nd January – More Than Dance Liturgical Dance Workshop and Prayer for Years 1/3/5 – with a sharing in church at 2:45pm

Monday 26th, Wed, 28th and Thurs 29th January – Year 5 Bikeability

Wednesday 28th January – Year 4 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Friday 30th January – INSET DAY – PUPILS NOT IN SCHOOL

Wednesday 4th February – Year 3 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 11th February – Year 2 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 18th February – Year 4-6 Class Mass for Ash Wednesday – 10am

Tuesday 3rd March – Parents' Evening

Wednesday 4th March – Year 1 - Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Thursday 5th March – Parents' Evening

Wednesday 11th March – Reception Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 11th March – Little Tasters

Friday 20th March – Stations of the Cross – 2:45pm in Church (Year 6 to lead)

Wednesday 25th March – Year 5 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Tuesday 31st March – Year 3 Broomhouse Farm

Wednesday 15th April – Year 4 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 22nd April – Year 3 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 29th April – Year 2 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 6th May – Year 1 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 13th May – Reception Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Friday 22nd May – Year 6 Class Mass – 10am

Wednesday 3rd June – Year 6 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 10th June – Year 5 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 17th June – Year 4 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th June Year 6 Residential – Ford Castle

Wednesday 24th June – Year 3 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 1st July – Year 2 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Wednesday 8th July – Year 1 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

Thursday 9th July - Year 5 Centre for Life

Wednesday 15th July – Reception Celebration of the Word service – 3pm

INSET Day – Pupils not at school - Friday 30th January

Visit: News – St Patrick's RC Church, Felling
for more information relating to the parish to St. Patrick's RC, Felling and St. Alban's, Pelaw.