



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



St Alban's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 11th December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was so lovely to see so many of our community at our KSI 'It's a Party!' Nativity. We look forward to seeing our EY children perform their Nativity on Monday and our KS2 Advent Carol Service, which will be held in school on Wednesday 17th December at 10am and 2pm.



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 school has on offer.

Staffing Updates:

Miss Liddle has been appointed as a new teaching assistant working with our Key Stage 2 pupils. We know that you will give her a very warm welcome.

More Than Dance:

We have 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.



A Little Reminder About Daily Reading



We'd like to give a gentle nudge about our school policy of **daily home reading**—it really does make a huge difference! Research shows that when parents get involved in their child's learning, it can lead to learning gains of **up to three extra months over the course of a year**. That's the power you hold! Just a few minutes each day sharing a book, asking questions and enjoying stories together can open doors for your child's progress and confidence.

Here's a handy tip: **repeated reading of the same passage** can have a big impact on reading fluency, so if your child wants to read the same page or story again, let them—it's building speed, accuracy and confidence every time!

Let's make reading a top priority—it's one of the simplest and most rewarding ways to support your child's success.



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	

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



School Meals:

Our school meals have remained a consistent price for a number of years; however, as of 1st April, they will rise to the new price of £3.10 a meal.

If any family believes that they would be in receipt of:

Your child will qualify for free school meals if you meet all the following criteria:

- you or your partner receive Child Benefit (for the child you are applying for)
- the child is in full-time education, under 19 years of age
- the child attends a local authority school or sixth form (but not a sixth-form college). If your child attends nursery, attendance must be full time and your child must attend before and after lunch in a nursery

In addition, you and your partner must receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA - IB)
- Guarantee Pension Credit
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA Income Related)
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (see section 'Families with no recourse to public funds' for information)
- **Universal Credit - with a net earned family income of less than £7,400**

Receipt of one of the above benefits will be checked with the relevant government departments (HMRC, DWP and Home Office) - this may be done via the Eligibility Checking Service. By signing the declaration on the application form, you are giving your consent for us to check your eligibility through this service.

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

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

(Please note that pupils will remain in school post-performance)

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

(Please note that pupils will remain in school post-performance)

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.