



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



St Alban's Catholic Primary School

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Monday 12th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful festive period and that you enjoyed time with your family and friends. Thank you to all who attended our nativities and Carol services – it was fantastic to see so many of you in school. The children conveyed the Christmas story beautifully and it was so lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas fayre. Your generosity helped to fund the visit to the Pantomime. A huge thank you to FOSTA for their continued and unwavering support.

ST. ALBAN'S MISSION AND VISION

Help us, Lord, to be loving and kind,
With open hearts and peaceful minds.
Teach us tolerance and compassion,
Caring for others in every action.
Guide us to be honest and to forgive,
So that in your light, we choose to live.
Give us strength to be brave each day,
Courageous like St. Alban in every way.
Inspire us to give and gladly share,
Showing generosity everywhere.
Help us to be fair and seek what's right,
Standing for justice with all our might.
May St. Alban's be filled with learning and
love,
A place of hope, blessed from above;
A place of happiness, where joy fills the soul
**'Where together we learn to live life to the
full.'**
Amen.



Mission Statement:

We want to begin by explaining that during the autumn term, we worked together as a staff to explore and to refine the school's mission and vision statement.

We started the process by focusing on the virtues and values that we felt were important to our community, and wanted to maintain the school's vision of 'Life to the full' from the Gospel of John (10:10).

Staff felt it was important to underpin the vision statement 'Life to the full' by recognising the qualities that we want our pupils to develop. This included developing love, honesty, forgiveness, bravery in our pupils (just like St. Alban, who was the first Christian martyr).

Who was St. Alban?:

St. Alban, was the first Christian Martyr in England from the 4th Century and patron saint of converts and torture victims. Although a Roman soldier and a pagan, Alban sheltered a priest; Amphibalus, in his house. The priest made such a profound impression on him that he became a Christian himself.

We have taken the opportunity to revise the current school prayer and created an easy-to-learn rhyming couplet prayer.

We would be grateful for any feedback you may have by completing the short form at the following link by Friday 16th January:

[St. Alban's Mission and Vision – Fill in form](#)

Celebration of the Word Services:

A little reminder that 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 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. You will be asked to sign in to the service and state which child you are present for; entrance will be via the main gate only, which we will open at 2:55pm for the 3pm start. Pupils will then be collected at the normal time of 3:30pm. If we feel that the number of visitors is too great for St. Alban's room, we may move the celebrations to either the hall or classroom.

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



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.

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 the school hall, not church as previously advertised.



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 should be in receipt of FSM please see the eligibility criteria outlined below:

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.

FREE Lunch for Every Child:

On **Thursday 15th January 2026**, BWCET will be offering a **FREE school meal** to all nursery and primary school children. This has been arranged in conjunction with Gateshead Council Catering and will be fully funded by Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. The meal will be Chicken Fillet & Yorkshire pudding with baby boiled potatoes, cabbage, carrots & gravy. The vegetarian option and jacket potato are also available. We hope that all children enjoy this day and take this opportunity to have a school meal with their friends – **it will be available for all children at St. Alban's, there is no need to pre-book!**

If you believe your child qualifies for free school meals and you haven't already done so, please apply here - [Free school meals - Gateshead Council](#). Whilst we would encourage all children to take up our school meal offering, your child does not actually need to be in receipt of a daily meal to attract the significant extra funding available for our schools. Even if you provide a packed lunch for your child, we urge you to please make the free meal application in order to benefit our school budgets.

After-school clubs:

We have worked hard to increase our offer for after-school clubs and now offer an extensive range. Please support us by encouraging your child/ren to attend.

YEAR	CLUB	DAY	TIME	DATES	COST	PLACES
Reception	Cookery	Monday	3.30-4.15	5 th Jan to 16 th Feb	£14.00	13
Reception to Year 6	Happy Feet	Monday	3.30-4.15	5 th Jan ongoing	£2.00 per week payable termly	
1,2,3,4,5 and 6	Homework	Monday	3.30-4.15	5 th Jan ongoing	FREE	15
3,4,5 and 6	Football	Tuesday	3.30-4.30	6 th Jan to 17 th Feb	£14.00	30
R,1 and 2	Lego	Tuesday	3.30-4.15	6 th Jan to 17 th Feb	£14.00	20
3,4,5 and 6	Drama	Tuesday	3.30-4.15	6 th Jan to 21 st Mar	£22.00	20
Wednesdays - No clubs due to staff training						
R,1 and 2	Arts and Crafts	Thursday	3.30-4.15	8 th Jan to 19 th Feb	£14.00	15
3,4,5 and 6	Animation using technology	Friday	3.30-4.15	9 th Jan to 20 th Feb	£14.00	15

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 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 school hall 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 school hall 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
 Thursday 12th February – Chris Adriaanse to visit Year 5
 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
 Friday 6th March – Vision Screening Reception Class
 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
 Wednesday 1st April – Class Group Photographs
 Wednesday 15th April – Year 4 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
 Wednesday 22nd April – Year 3 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
 Wednesday 22nd April – Year 6 NU Foundation
 Wednesday 29th April – Year 2 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
 Wednesday 6th May – Year 1 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
 Friday 8th May – KS2 Boxercise Day
 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
Friday 26th June – INSET DAY PUPILS NOT IN SCHOOL
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
Thursday 16th July – Leavers' Mass in Church 10am
Friday 17th July – School Closes at 3.30pm

INSET Day – Pupils not at school - Friday 30th January and Friday 26th June

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.