



"Where together we learn to live
life to the full"
(John 10:10)



St Alban's Catholic Primary School

Rothbury Avenue, Pelaw, Gateshead, NE10 0QY

Telephone: 0191 4693251

Email: info@stap.bwcet.com

Website: <https://stalbanspelaw.bwcet.com/>

Tuesday 21st April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome

Welcome back to school and to the summer term. We hope that you had a happy and holy Easter and are ready for all that the new term offers in school. This week, we welcome Mr Keys to school as our new Headteacher. Mr Keys will work closely with Mrs Swaddle who will continue to support the school, to build on the wonderful strengths of our St. Alban's community. We are sure that many of you will have met him on the yard already and he looks forward to meeting with more of you over the coming days and weeks. He is very excited to be here and very appreciative of the warm welcome he has received by children, staff, parents and carers so far.

Additionally, we are delighted to welcome Mr McNall to our teaching team. Mr McNall is a highly respected and experienced teacher and will be working with us on Mondays (Year 4), Tuesdays (Year 1) and Wednesdays (Year 2) to support with teacher planning, preparation and assessment time. He will also be continuing to work at another local Trust school on a Thursday and Friday. He met lots of our pupils today and we know that he will be a great addition to the team.

Statutory Assessments

Year 6 SATs – Multiple assessments from Monday 11th to Thursday 14th May 2026

Year 4 Multiplication Check Window – Monday 1st to Friday 12th June 2026

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Window – Monday 8th to Friday 12th June 2026

Upcoming statutory assessments take place on the dates listed above. Strong attendance helps children feel settled, confident and ready to do their best. Keeping routines as normal as possible means assessments can be completed calmly and often, within the classroom environment. For our Year 4 and Year 1 pupils, the tests may take place at any point during the outlined period, so it is vitally important that pupils are present and in school each day. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

CAFOD Big Lenten Walk

We were astounded by the generosity and support of our CAFOD Big Lenten Walk before Easter. Sponsorship money has raised an incredible £881.75 for CAFOD. The sponsorship you raised will go to help families and communities overseas access safe drinking water and according to CAFOD's website, a total of our size can help a remote community establish their own supply of clean, safe water. We are very grateful for your kindness and generosity. We must also express a huge thank you to those who acknowledged



and ticked the box for 'Gift Aid' – meaning a significant proportion of the £881.75 is likely to be increased by a further 25%.

The Catholic Social Teaching Principles which apply to our fundraising includes caring for the poor, walking in solidarity and supporting the common good.

Easter Raffle and St. Cuthbert's Care

During the last week of term, Nicola Milne, fundraising engagement officer for St. Cuthbert's Care came to school to talk to the pupils about the impact of their fundraising for our Diocesan Charity. Nicola kindly explained about The Alan Shearer Centre and how much the charity does for those with additional needs, those in care and those who are in nursing or residential care. Children in Year 1 and Year 5 (Mini-Vinnies) will attend the St. Cuthbert's Care 'Good Shepherd Mass' next week to present our £180 donation to this wonderful cause. Thank you, all!



Year of St. Francis

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special **Jubilee Year of Saint Francis**, running from **January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027**. This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi (who died on October 3, 1226) and focuses on themes of peace, ecology, and spiritual renewal.

Thought for the week: Why not teach your child to say St. Francis' prayer? You could say the prayer together each evening before bedtime.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console,

To be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

DON BOSCO SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
We accompany. We grow.

2026 IS THE FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR

SPECIAL YEAR OF SAINT FRANCIS

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a "Special Year of St. Francis" to commemorate the 800th death anniversary of the St. Francis of Assisi. From January 10, 2026 to January 10, 2027, the faithful can obtain this grace under the usual conditions – sacramental confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope – by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world.

Nourish Food School

Please remember that our Year 5 Nourish Food School cookery sessions for parents/carers to work with their pupils is due to commence on 23/4/26.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive – thank you for taking the time to respond to us and please read the fabulous endorsements below.



2. Please rate the workshop out of 5

4.88

Average Rating



It was very child focused - my little boy really enjoyed today!

The orderliness and how simple the instructions were. It was very easy for the children to understand and everything turned out well.

Good cooking lesson

Lots of super information and patience with the children

I loved that it was child led, it gave me a really good sense of how much my son was capable of and I will certainly be letting him help out in the kitchen a bit more!

The kids get to explore and make their own food.

Great hands-on experience of cooking for children

Pupil comment: We liked making the food together and making the chicken crispy and we also enjoyed tasting the food. I was happy my mam could come. I also tasted some food, like red onion, I don't normally eat.

Parent comment: We fully support this initiative and believe more opportunities of this type are essential. While we encourage our children to cook at home, this collective emphasis on cooking as a life skill is essential in schools.

Engaging 1 to 1 time with kid and seeing the enjoyment.

Loved how the kids got to be head chef and it was just a really lovely thing to do together.

Being able to do something with my child in school, making a simple meal that can be done as a family at home

'Hands on' for the children

Facilitators were great with the children. The materials provided and utensils were excellent. A really enjoyable activity for the children that was also educational.

Hosts very friendly. Session was fun for both adults and the children.

The approach / showing the kids with real equipment. The food was delicious! Step by step instructions and help worked well.

The facilitators were excellent. They took their time to explain every step in simple terms understandable by kids. They were fabulous.

It was very fun and interesting for my child, get to know good knowledge of different food. Be able to take home a tasty meal!

Dates for the Diary

(Please note that these dates are subject to change)

Tuesday 21st April – KS2 Cricket Engagement Day
Wednesday 22nd April – Year 3 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 22nd April – Year 6 to NU Foundation
Thursday 23rd April – Nourish Food School – Year 5
Wednesday 29th April – Year 5 Mini-Vinnies to St. Michael's, Newcastle, for Good Shepherd Mass Appeal (will be accompanied by Year 1) and Year 2 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday – School Closed
Wednesday 6th May – Year 1 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Friday 8th May – KS2 Boxercise Day
W/C Monday 11th May – Year 6 KS2 End of Key Stage Assessments
Friday 15th May – Nourish Food School Year 6 (N.B. No Parent/carer involvement)
Monday 18th May – Whole School - Happy Europe Day Special Lunch
Wednesday 20th May – Reception Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Friday 22nd May – Year 6 Class Mass – 10am
Monday 1st June – Friday 12th June – Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Checks
Wednesday 3rd June – Year 6 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Monday 8th June – Friday 12th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and Year 2 PSC Rechecks
Wednesday 10th June – Year 5 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Monday 15th June – Sports Day – Provisional EY and KS1 AM / KS2 PM
Tuesday 16th June – Year 6 Cardinal Hume Transition Day 1
Wednesday 17th June – Year 4 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th June Year 6 Residential – Ford Castle
Tuesday 23rd June – Year 6 Primary Youth Festival
Wednesday 24th June – Year 3 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Friday 26th June – INSET DAY PUPILS NOT IN SCHOOL
Monday 29th June to Wednesday 1st July – Year 5 Holy Island Residential
Tuesday 30th June – Year 6 Cardinal Hume Transition Day 2
Wednesday 1st July – Year 6 Cardinal Hume Transition Day 3
Wednesday 1st July – Year 2 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 1st July – Year 1 visit to The Glasshouse - Big Sing for Mini Singers
Thursday 2nd July – Year 5 Celebration of Sport
Wednesday 8th July – Year 1 Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Wednesday 8th July – Reports sent out to parents
Thursday 9th July – Nursery and Reception visit to Washington Wetlands
Thursday 9th July – Year 4 visit to The Glasshouse, The Big Sing
Wednesday 15th July – Reception Celebration of the Word service – 3pm
Thursday 16th July – Leavers' Mass in Church 10am
Thursday 16th July – Whole School – World Cup Final Special Lunch
Friday 17th July – School Closes at 3.30pm
INSET Day – Pupils not at school - Friday 26th June

Designated Safeguarding Leads for the school: Mrs K. Swaddle and Mr S. Keys

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads for the school:

Miss Colligan, Mrs McAtominey, Mrs Hall and Mrs Dellow.

Visit: [St Alban's Pelaw - Newsletters](#) for more information