

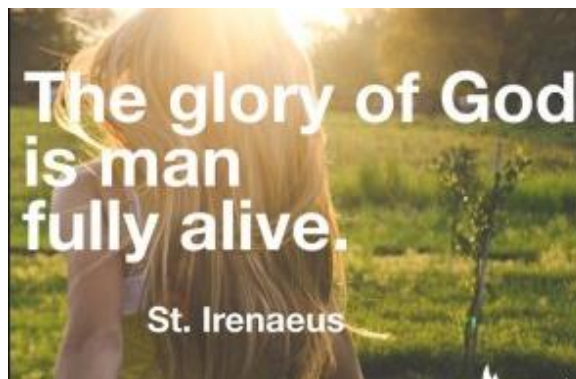
# St Alban's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter to Parents

January 29th 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Working together has never been more important and I commend you again for the amazing efforts that you are doing as we support the children. Thank you for supporting us in keeping children at home where possible – this helps reduce the community transmission which is still high at the moment. Whilst undoubtedly challenging, I want to reflect on the possibilities that this gives us to prioritise what is important to each of us and focus on the most precious gift any of us have been given – our children. Saint Irenaeus is famously quoted as having said, “**The glory of God is man fully alive?**”



I want to focus on this and really try to make sure that we focus on what gives us energy and the children life. Our RE scheme is called, “The Way the truth and the Life” and “Life to the Full,” despite the many difficulties of this how can we give each other life? How can we together give the children Life to the Full despite the difficulties they face? We have an opportunity next week to fully focus on the Children’s wellbeing in mental health week. Let us all grab that opportunity with both hands!!

I am very grateful to the teachers that keep on learning at a rapid pace and keep introducing new ways of supporting you and the children. The teachers are very aware of the demands on your time and want to support you as much as possible. As a school we are working to the principles of best practice that we have seen which continue to be:

1. **Teaching quality** is more important than how lessons are delivered and we want to scaffold the learning.  
Teaching Little and often with clear direction and “showing” the children how to do a task is a way we believe we can support the children.
2. **We are ensuring access to technology** for those children that may not have it.  
We had 31 Chromebooks from the DFE and we have had around 8 donations from Wirral Laptop group (Facebook) and staff donations.
3. **Meeting class mates** can provide motivation for the children.  
The Google Meets (Zooms) through the day and story times are a good way to do this.
4. **Supporting children’s independence** can improve the learning outcomes. We are looking at assessing the children every two weeks on one main outcome and then looking to adapt the learning.

5. **Different approaches suit different types of content and pupils.**

A mixture of live and recorded lessons is working at the moment. We find that the younger the child the more useful it is to have a recorded video and we know that having the timetable published a day in advance helps you plan your day.

We have asked for you to stick to a timetable but I know that you are being flexible about how you are delivering and we have asked you to prioritise reading and maths, and basic skills. Please be gentle on yourselves. Please let us know how we can support you.

**Staff**

We say goodbye to Mrs Parkhill this week as she moves to work for the Children and Adult mental Health service. She starts on Monday. We thank her for dedication as a teacher at St. Alban's we wish her much success. Mrs Evans will retire at Easter this year- she is still continuing to be a source of great encouragement to the staff, myself and we prepare for her retirement at Easter.

**MYON----- HIGHLY RECCOMENDED----**

<https://www.myon.co.uk/login/index.html>

We are very excited to launch our partnership with MyOn for pupils within Saint Alban's. MyOn is a digital library with hundreds of books for children to choose from. These books are linked to your child's age and can be tailored to their interests. These digital books will allow you and your child to read books together during this home learning period and at their reading level. Can I ask that this becomes a new reading habit.

The website allows your child to interact with books by highlighting sections, annotating with virtual post notes and listening to text. Part of the website has a news section where there will be current child-friendly news articles for your child to access.

If you have any problems logging into your child's account or navigating the site please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or email the school office for support.

There is a video on the website to support you click here

<http://www.stalbans.wirral.sch.uk/page/my-on-renaissance-learning/93063>

## Learning Survey

Please complete the learning survey that can be accessed by clicking the link. The survey is anonymous but you can leave your name if you want us to contact you to support further.

<https://forms.gle/5YSd6NMXAuXHvDjK8>



## Mental Health week

It is Children's Mental Health week next week – we will be celebrating and also having our very own – non screen – WELLBEING WEDNESDAY

**"Why can't it be  
Monday,  
Tuesday,  
Saturday, Sunday,  
Wednesday,  
Thursday,  
Saturday, Sunday?"**

- anonymous, 7 years old

Enjoy your weekend with the children and seek the opportunities that this brings – it will be over soon – keep going!!

*Mr J McDonald*



Mr J McDonald  
Headteacher