



10.09.2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Word of the Week: Encounter**

*Our faith is full of encounters with God – in prayer, the sacraments and in the people we meet. These encounters can change us, challenge us and bring us closer to God. When we open ourselves to encountering Christ in our daily lives, we allow his love to transform us and make us more like him. We can encounter Christ in the Scriptures, the Mass and in the faces of those in need.*

It has been a pleasure welcoming the children back to school this week! I have enjoyed having the opportunity meet and speak with many of our children and our families so far this week.

**Staffing update**

We welcome some new members of staff to St Alban's this term. We have Mrs Clarke in Year 1, Miss Howick in Year 2 and Miss Hyden in Year 3.

We have also had two members of staff leave the school during the summer. Andrea and Andy Brough have made the decision to leave St Alban's following their many years of service to the school. They will both be missed by the children and families of St Alban's and we thank them both for their many years of service to the school and the St Alban's community.

**Important Dates, Events, Activities and Extra-Curricular Clubs**

**September**

4<sup>th</sup> September INSET Day - School Closed to Pupils

5<sup>th</sup> September INSET Day - School Closed to Pupils

8<sup>th</sup> September – School welcomes all children back to school

10<sup>th</sup> September - Meet the Teacher – After school opportunity to discuss any initial concerns with the teacher

[For term dates and inset information, click here.](#)



## Secondary School Open Days

We have started to receive information regarding Open Days for the Secondary schools. We will share this information with parents on Class Dojo as we receive it. The dates confirmed so far include:

**St Benedict – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 5pm – 8pm**

**St John Haughton – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 3:30pm – 7pm**

**West Park – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 5pm – 7pm**

**Lees Brook – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 6pm – 8pm**

**John Flamsteed School - 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 9:15am, 10:15am, 11:35am (book a timeslot)**

## School dinners

We have been informed by Derbyshire catering services that the cost of school dinners is due to increase with immediate effect. This is not a school decision, but we do have to increase the price of school meals to ensure we are not operating at a loss with the cost of the meals. School meals will now be £3.38 per day.

This will not impact children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, as their meals continue to be free of charge. If your child is in Pre-school, Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and your child has a school meal, this price increase will apply to you.

If your personal circumstances have changed, you might be eligible to apply for free school meals for your child. Details about this can be obtained from Mrs Cartlidge. Please contact Mrs Cartlidge in the office if you would like her to complete an eligibility check.

## Booking school dinners

Thank you for your patience while the office has been setting up the new school administration system called Arbor. This is a new parent portal that will allow parents to book their child's school meal choices, as well as allowing parents to access other information and payment options for their child. It is planned that this system should be live by the end of the week. You can then sit with the dinner menu at home and go through each day choosing what meal your child would like. The office will share a guide for parents on downloading the Arbor app and new parent portal when this is ready to launch hopefully towards the end of this week.

## Clubs

*Monday – Multi-sports (Years 1-6)*

*Monday – Ukulele Music Lessons ( Year 3 & 4 - planned for later in the term with additional details to follow)*

*Tuesday – Guitar and Piano Lessons (all pupils)*

*Tuesday – Young Voices - after school (starting 23.09.2025)*

*Wednesday – Tag Rugby before school (Year 5-6)*

*Thursday – Dodgeball before school (Years 3-6) // Football (Years 1-6) // Drama (Years 3-6)*

*Friday – Viola, Violin, and Cello Lessons (Year 2-6)*

*Daily/Holidays – First Friends Wrap Around Care and Holiday Club (all pupils)*



## News, Announcements, Celebrations and Acknowledgments

**Education Sunday** – Celebrated at St Alban's Church this Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 10:30am. This Sunday, the Church celebrates Education Sunday. Some of our children will be taking part in the Mass this weekend. If any families would like to join us, the Mass begins at 10:30am. There will also be a parish barbeque after Mass.

## Support for families

The Padley Community Hub is available to support any families in need of food assistance at home. There is no referral needed - families can access support directly.

**PADLEY**  
Community Hub

**FREE MEALS FOR FAMILIES**

At Padley Community Hub,  
Parcel Terrace, Derby, DE1 1LY

Children must be  
accompanied by an adult.

FREE BREAKFAST	FREE DINNER
Term Time Only	Every Week
Every Thursday 7.30am - 8.30am	Every Tuesday 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Cereal, Toast, Egg or Bacon Sandwich	Hot home cooked meal (vegetarian or meat option)
Hot and cold drinks	Hot and cold drinks

**No referral needed, just turn up.**

## Toddlers group

This is going to continue on a Wednesday morning in the Infant Hall. The session will start at 9am until 11am.

## Uniform

It was wonderful to see our children back to school with all their uniform items.

A reminder that our PE kit consists of a plain white top and black shorts. Shorts should be modest in length and suitable for active movement.

For more information our policy is here:

<https://www.stalbansderby.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/02/DSA-Uniform-Feb->



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St. Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy  
Newstead Avenue, Chaddesden, Derby, DE216NU  
[Enquiries@dsa.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@dsa.srscmat.co.uk)  
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



[2023.pdf](#)

Hair bobbles are available in the school office if your child needs to borrow one for PE days.

### ***SEND support available in the community***

Attached to our newsletter we have included a copy of the latest 'What's on guide'. This is a great resource that sign posts families to support that is available within the community. Inside, you'll discover details about courses, support services, and resources covering a range of topics including healthy sleep habits, mealtime struggles, learning more about Autism, ADHD support, and communication strategies. These courses are free to access and booking details are included in the booklet. We hope it proves helpful and encouraging. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like more information or support.

### ***Fidget tools in school***

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of children bringing personal fidget toys into school, while these items may seem helpful, many are causing a distraction in the classroom. Research shows that brightly coloured, noisy, or visually engaging fidgets (such as spinners or poppers) often interrupt both the user's concentration and that of other children, shifting focus from learning to play. We absolutely understand that some children benefit from quiet, discreet sensory tools to support focus and regulation. If your child does require such support, please speak to their class teacher first. Together you can discuss appropriate strategies or approved sensory aids that are tailored to your child's needs ensuring they receive helpful support without disrupting our learning environment.

## **Safeguarding, Parish Information, Useful Resources and Links**

### **St Alban's Parish**

Keep up to date with what is going on in the St Alban's Parish by reading their newsletter:

<http://www.stalbansderby.org.uk/news/newsletters/>

### **BIGGUNS AND LITTLUNS**

A group for all ages at St Alban's Catholic Parish Hall from 11.00am - 1.00pm each Monday. The group provides an opportunity to meet new people and enjoy watching the children explore and play. Activities are planned for the children and the adults can join in if they wish... but it's also fine for you to sit back and relax with a coffee and cake.

### **Contact Information**

Address: St. Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Newstead Avenue, Chaddesden, Derby, DE21 6NU

Tel: 01332 673823

General email: [enquiries@dsa.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dsa.srscmat.co.uk)

Safeguarding email: [safeguarding@dsa.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@dsa.srscmat.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.stalbansderby.srscmat.co.uk/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stalbanscvaderby/> @stalbanscvaderby



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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Diary dates for the term can be found below.

Mrs McNamara  
Headteacher



### Diary dates – September 2025

Date	Event	Who is involved?
14.09.25	Education Sunday – Mass at Church 10:30am  Commissioning Mass for the Chaplaincy Team	All children welcome to attend the Sunday Mass.  Children from the Chaplaincy Team to be commissioned at Mass on Sunday.
15.09.25	Whole school New academic year Mass – 9:15am	Children from Year 1 – Year 6  All parents, family members and parishioners invited to attend.
03.10.25	Harvest Liturgy in school – 9:15am (Harvest donations to be transported to Church)	Children from Year 1 - 6
05.10.25	Key Stage Two Phase Mass at Church – Year 3, 4 and 5 – 10:30am  Cake sale after Mass led by the children – charity donation to CAFOD Family Fast Day	All children and families welcome to attend Mass  Children from Year 3, 4 and 5 welcome to attend



07.10.25	Individual school photograph and in-school siblings	Whole school
20.10.25 – 22.10.25	Year 6 Residential - The Briars	Year 6
27.10.25	HALF TERM	
03.11.25	Return to school	All children
04.11.25	Flu immunisations	Reception to Year 6
18.11.25	Height and weight checks	Year 6
12.12.25	Key Stage One walk to Church to practice the Christingle procession – p.m.	Year 1 and 2 children
13.12.25	Parish Christmas Fair	Some children from school to sing at the Parish
14.12.25	Key Stage One Phase Parish Mass – 10:30am at Church (Christingle)	All children from Year 1 and Year 2 welcome to attend
18.12.25	Key Stage Two Carol Service at Church – 1:30pm	All children and families of children in Key Stage Two welcome to attend
19.12.25	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	All children
05.01.26	RETURN TO SCHOOL	All children return to school
09.03.26 10.03.26	Height, weight, vision and hearing checks	Reception children
24.03.26	Class photographs	Whole school