September 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to some and a huge welcome to our new families! We hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday creating everlasting memories. We know that some of your children will have been nervous about starting 'big school' but please rest assure, we will look after them and ensure they have the best start whilst having the upmost fun. This said, we know how important the relationships between teachers and grown-ups are in supporting your child settle and become more trusting, therefore, we welcome you in during drop off, to help your child pop their things down, choose their lunch and find their morning activity. You can then have a little go at the activity with them before heading out as we start the day. Below you will find lots of important information for the year ahead and information on this terms topic.

Important dates for Autumn term
Children's full days start- Monday 7th September 2026
Phonics parent/carer workshop- Monday 21st September 2026 9:00-9:30- in the hall
Little City experience in school- Tuesday 15th September 2026
Dentist workshop- Date TBC
Nurse workshop- Friday 18th September
Police visit- Friday 25th September 2026
Phonics share & learn session-Tuesday 6th October 2026 8:40-9:30- in class
Individual school photo- Tuesday 13th October 2026
Parent/carer's evening- Tuesday 20th October & Thursday 22nd October 2026
HALF TERM – Monday 26th-Friday 30th October 2026
Maths parent/carer workshop- Monday 9th November 2026 9:00-9:30- in the hall
Maths share & learn session- Tuesday 24th November 2026 8:40-9:30- in class
EYFS Nativity- 10am Friday 4th December 2026 10:00-11:00- in the hall
Winter music concert- 14:30 Wednesday 9th December 2026 14:15-15:15- in the hall

Tapestry
Please let Mrs Ralph or Ms S know if you need help logging on/downloading the app, as this is a vital resource where we share lots of your child's learning and other information. A reminder to those already on, please upload as many things as you can over the next year, we so love to see what you have been up to as a family during weekends and holidays and any learning done at home.

P.E
Our physical development sessions will be on a **Thursday morning**, please ensure your child **comes dressed** in appropriate clothing and footwear for these sessions. The weather will start to change soon, so trousers and jumper are also advised. Please also be aware that your child will stay in their P.E kit for the remainder of the day so think carefully about the weather and what they are wearing for this session.

Library
Your child's library sessions will start in a couple of weeks. Reception will have their session on a **Wednesday** afternoon. During this session, your child will be able to take out a new book every week, please read and share the book with them to encourage a love of reading we highly promote here in school. Books must then be returned by the morning of their next library session, for your child to be able take a new one out. If their current book is not returned, your child will not be able to choose another book and a reminder will be sent home. Please do take care of the library books, if the book gets damaged or lost, this could result in a fine being issued.

Clothing
We have so much fun in Early Years, but this can sometimes mean we get a little messy; paint, mud and shaving foam, to name a few…
If we could have a coat in school at all times for when we head outdoors in all weather and wellies for when we are splashing in puddles and digging for mud for our mud cakes, this will

protect our clothes as much as possible. It is really important the children are dressed appropriately in all weather conditions. Spare clothes and underwear are also recommended in case of any accidents that may occur. Thank you in advance.

Our current topic

This term our topic is 'This is me.' During this topic we will be looking at our families, where we live, the location of St Albans, what is important to us, who is important to us, with a strong emphasis on respecting our differences. We will explore occupations by getting some exciting outside visitors in and work in forest school, exploring the outdoors, creating autumnal artwork from pieces we collect, having a focus on seasonal change. In maths, children will continue to develop their knowledge of number, explore patterns and name and identify shape properties. During phonics, we will ensure that phase 1 is recapped and consolidated, before introducing phase 2 sounds. During this phase your child/ren will start to learn how to segment and blend words to read and write. We welcome you all to the phonic workshop, see above for date and time.

Music

Music lessons will take place every Wednesday with Mr Mitchell. This term, Firetips will be focussing on playing and naming musical instruments accurately whilst exploring a variety of songs. All children will then show off their skills during their performance in the Winter Music concert in December.

Reading

It is expected that children should be reading daily at home for at least ten minutes a day and their grown up should record this in their reading record. Reading records will be checked daily so please make sure they are signed and in school every day. Children are aiming to gain reading rewards from the 'Give me Ten' reward system. When a child reads 25 times at home and it is recorded, they will receive their first reward. Please note, **only one read per day will be counted** towards the give me ten scheme. Books will be changed weekly and will match their current phonic working level.

Celebration assembly

We celebrate the children's success and achievements during our weekly celebration assembly on a Friday morning (9am). You are invited to attend these every week and celebrate the children with us. Please do join us if you are able.

If there is anything you wish to discuss or if you have any concerns throughout the year, please organise to talk to us at a convenient time. In the meantime, play around with tapestry, keep an eye on our class page on the school website and keep talking to your child about the lovely things we are getting up to at school.

Thank you for your co-operation, we very much look forward to working together during the year ahead.

With kind regards,
Mrs Ralph