



# ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 11 NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term we are focussing on being faith-filled and hopeful in school. We have spoken about how we can show our faith in ourselves, other people and in God as well as our hopes for the future. These virtues will form the basis of our Friday celebration assemblies. We started November, our month of remembrance with a whole school Mass at the Oratory, celebrating All Saints Day and today we had a minute's silence to remember those who gave their lives during war. Year 6 led the school in creating artwork and prayers for Remembrance Day. Mrs Black also led an assembly about our school patron saint, St Aloysius'. Following this, in Key Stage Two, children have been thinking about what we can learn from his example. This week has also seen some of our parents attend a phonics workshop in school to help them support their pupil at home with reading and writing. Can I also take the opportunity to remind you to book a Parents' Evening appointment with your child's class teacher for next week. This is an invaluable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and how they have settled in this term.



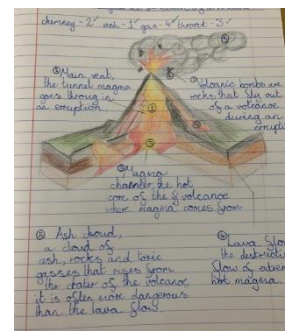
One final thing is a date change. Due to a clash with the Pantomime, the Acorn, Tigger and Fir Class Nativity will now be on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 am and 2.30pm, more information to follow via SchoolComms.

Mrs Hannah Tebb, Headteacher

## Classroom News

**Willow Class** had the most fantastic time on our residential. A week full of laughter, challenge, and teamwork. Since returning, we have enjoyed putting our new skills to good use, supporting each other in our learning and continuing to take risks. In English we have been studying the work of Maya Angelou, an American poet and civil rights activist. Year 6 have loved exploring her poems, spotting different poetic techniques and creating fantastic poetry. During our Science lessons we have been considering what impact exercise has on our heart rate. We have conducted an experiment exploring which form of exercise has the biggest impact on our heart rate. In Topic we have been investigating different volcanoes around the world, their structure and impact on the environment. We are looking forward to crafting our very own volcanoes later in the term.

During the month of November, we remember all those who have died and the Saints. During our collective class worship, we have been praying for all those who have died and remembering all those who have died in war.



In **Acorn Class** Autumn was definitely in the air leading up to half term and the children greatly enjoyed exploring pumpkins and discovering what is inside them, making their own 'pumpkin pie' and 'pumpkin soup' and even 'pumpkin pizza'! Alongside this, we read the book 'Pumpkin Soup' which explores the different feelings and complexities around friendships and turn taking. The children have had a strong start back after half term and have helped to welcome and settle our new Acorns which is lovely to see! Our current topic explores 'People who help and care for us', beginning with our own families and then the wider community so this week we have been pretending to be fire fighters! This gives the perfect opportunity for developing new vocabulary through play such as Emergency! Danger! and related words like siren, hoses and ladders. We have even made our own fire engine! In Phonics we have been learning about rhyme through stories and songs as well as finding rhymes for our own names. We have also been exploring the different sounds we can make with our voices, through reading 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' all together - the children especially enjoyed the hoo woow of the snowstorm, the swishy swashy grass and pretending to be stuck in the squelchy mud! In Maths we continue to look at number and shape, learning different ways to represent numbers up to 4 and learning how to describe circles, squares, rectangles and triangles. Next time you are out and about for a walk, see if your child can spot any shapes or numbers we have learned about! We have also been exploring colours and textures through creative activities and messy play and strengthening fine motor muscles as well as larger ones. Nativity practice is on us already so you might start to hear your child at home singing Christmas songs soon! We are very excited!!

**Tigger Class** have returned from half term full of energy to learn. The children have continued to build up their phonics knowledge and are now regularly practising using their Fred Fingers to read and write simple CVC words using all the single sounds they have learnt. Last week the children's learning was focused on bonfire night and the story of Guy Fawkes. The children made rockets and created big firework pictures. They also had a lovely time sitting round a little fire where the children toasted marshmallows and drank hot chocolate. In RE we acted out a wedding and thought about it being an important celebration. The children loved dressing up. This week Tigger Class are focusing on transport and have enjoyed reading and story boarding Mr Gumpy's Motor Car. They have linked their learning of ordinal numbers to parking little cars and racing cars along a track. The children have also been using 5s frames to show their understanding of number. The children have made vehicles out of junk modelling and also wood using the work bench. Tiggers had fun today exploring Mrs Robinson's car and comparing it to the old car in our Mr Gumpy story. Another busy couple of weeks in Tigger Class!



In **Fig Class** we have started our new class book 'Greenpeace'. We learnt about who Greenpeace are, what they do and discussed ways we can help look after our planet. We read the letters which the girl in the story sent to Greenpeace. We looked at some examples of letters, focusing on the vocabulary included such as 'dear', 'yours sincerely' and 'best wishes'. We talked about the layout of a letter and what we need to include to make sure it gets to the right person. In Maths we have started adding two 2-digit numbers together. We started by adding multiples of ten to a 2-digit number then we moved on to adding any 2-digit numbers together! We used base 10 to help us add the tens and ones together. In our Topic lessons we have been learning about human and physical features. We had pictures of places in Oxford such as trees in Port Meadow and the Radcliffe Camera and we worked in our groups, discussing whether they were human or physical features. We also looked at art from around the world. The Aboriginal art looked great so we created our own pieces using paint and cotton buds! In RE we have started learning about who the disciples were and why Jesus called upon his disciples. We read the story when Jesus called on his first four disciples. We imagined Jesus asked us to be one of his disciples and spoke about what we might say if he asked us. We mind mapped ways we show that we are doing what Jesus asks us at school and at home.

**Ash Class** have been busy this week. They have been learning about the water cycle. We attempted to do a practical investigation. This involved putting a drop of rain water (blue food colouring!) in a bag and waiting for it to evaporate. Sadly, we were not able to see the final stage of the cycle due to the cold and lack of sunlight now. In Maths, the class have also been memorising their times tables. This has been difficult for students. However, I have passing on the tricks of the trade such as the x9 finger trick. We are nearing the end of our unit in poetry. The class is writing a piece of free-verse poetry about a river. They have been using a range of figurative language to convey emotions and ideas. We are hoping to perform our finished poems to the rest of the class by the end of the week. Jesus shared a special bond with God. The class is being taught about how we all also have such a connection with God. We are also reflecting on those who have lost their lives in war. As Remembrance Day draws closer, we pray and remember.



The boys and girls of **Fir Class** have returned from their half term break more resilient and ambitious. Many of them are taking on new challenges with a greater sense of independence and wish to challenge themselves. We have come a long way in just six weeks. In Maths we are building our understanding of addition and subtraction using part- whole and bar models, exploring the relationship between the two operations and strengthening our understanding of number bonds within 20. The children enjoy our practical games and tasks working together to share their thinking. In our literacy work we have been exploring rhyme and enjoying the text Giraffes Can't Dance. The children have been exploring seasonal poems and writing their own, using descriptive language and our experience of the changing seasons. This links with our Science work as the children observe and discuss the effect of the seasons and weather upon the World around us. Many of the children may have mentioned our Jelly Bean Jar. This has been adopted by the class as we reflect the different forms of prayer and how we can build our relationship as a friend of God by listening to his word and talking to him. We have also explored the role of the saints as examples of people who built a life of friendship with God. Next Wednesday sees our trip aboard the open top bus, weather permitting. We will return to school in time for our lunch but all children will need a coat with a hood. We are very excited and over the next few days you will be inundated with interesting facts about some of the fantastic buildings and landmarks that we are so lucky to have in our City.

**Bay Class** have shown great creativity and curiosity this week. In English, the pupils have enjoyed writing poems about Antarctica. In Maths, the class have shown great engagement exploring multiples, factors, prime numbers, squared numbers and cubed numbers using Maths resources. The class show great interest in starting our new topic on forces in Science, investigating why unsupported objects fall towards the Earth. In RE, the pupils have been exploring parables in the bible and learning about people living as God Samaritans today. They enjoyed writing their own news report script based on a parable and performing it to the class. The class have made beautiful poppies for remembrance day.



In Maths this week in **Oak Class**, we have continued learning about addition and subtraction, specifically the formal methods of column addition and subtraction. We will finish our unit next week and start multiplication and division. As we have been learning about rainforests in Geography, we have focused in on the Amazon and are preparing to write reports about this amazing place next week. We have learned how to use headings and sub-headings, as well as organizing our work into paragraphs. In RE, we are learning about listening to God's word. We learned about Samuel and how he learned to listen and respond to God. We have just begun our Design and Technology study of a healthy and varied diet. Over the next few weeks, children will be making a sandwich or wrap that they have designed!

AS THE WEATHER IS BECOMING COLDER AND RAIN IS MORE LIKELY, PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH A COAT.

## Diary Dates

Week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> November - Parents Evenings  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Y1 School Trip  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November - PTA calendar photographs  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November - Ash Class cake sale  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Acorn, Tigger and Fir Class Nativity - PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Whole School Mass at The Oratory  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December - 2.30pm - 5pm PTA Christmas Fair  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December - 6pm - Y6 Confirmation at The Oratory  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Pantomime: Cinderella  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December - School Christmas Lunch  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Bay and Willow Carol Service at The Oratory  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Last day of Autumn Term - finish at 1pm



Remember to follow us on Twitter for more regular updates!  
[@AloysiusSchool](https://twitter.com/AloysiusSchool)

We are recruiting for a Teaching Assistant.

If you have experience of supporting children, building their knowledge and skills, please find further information here.

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Be ambitious for the higher gifts"

1 Cor. 12:31

[www.staloyusius.net](http://www.staloyusius.net)



IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2023?

JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN MORNING ON

**THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> December at 9.30am**

for further details email [office.3842@st-aloyusius.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3842@st-aloyusius.oxon.sch.uk)



**SCOMIS**  
Your ICT Partner

Please click on the link to the SCOMIS Parent Newsletter with excellent information about keeping your child safe online.

## Christmas and festive cards are ready to order!

1. Approve your child's artwork and confirm their name by visiting <https://approve.myfundraisinghub.com> or scan the QR code below. You will need the Organisation Code F81E2D and your child's 6-digit Design Code that appears on their design sample sent home yesterday (7<sup>th</sup> Nov).
2. Ordering: Visit their shop website (<https://traditional.classfundraising.co.uk>) to put in an order. You will need both codes again to do so. Check out (no payment is taken at this point) and write down your order number.
3. Payment needs to be made through the PTA. Please pay directly by bank transfer using the details below, please include the order number you were given in step 2 as reference.
4. Delivery: All orders will be delivered for free to the school at the end of November. We will let you know when they have arrived.



St Aloysius School PTA

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account number: 00060652

Reference: (Your order number)

See the PTA letter sent this week for more details!

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