



## ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 16 DECEMBER 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reflect on the past term and 2022 as a whole, we have a lot to celebrate. The children have grown in knowledge and love for others and demonstrated excellent service to each other and our community. 2022 saw a strong set of end of key stage data and we were above national average in both our end of Key Stage One and Key Stage Two data. This academic year saw the introduction of our revised behaviour policy with a close focus to our termly virtues and a shared responsibility. We have also had the Sacrament of Confirmation for our Year Six pupils and new Upper Key Stage Two altar servers have been inducted by Fr Benedict as way to grow in faith and love and serve the school and parish. This Advent has also brought the return of soup production in school to provide a hot meal for vulnerable members of our community, and this has been alongside the reverse Advent Calendar introduced this year by Mrs Mancari-Rees across the school, which has provided food and essential items for the Community Emergency Foodbank - thank you to all of the families that donated towards this initiative. Next week, our choir, led by Mrs Black, will be singing at a local residential home for elderly and housebound members of our local community.

I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful Christmas full of hope, love and laughter.

Mrs Hannah Tebb, Headteacher

### Classroom News

The children in **Fig Class** have been very busy these last few weeks. As they are learning about advent in RE, they made their own advent wreath as a class. They discussed what advent is about and how we prepare for Jesus. They talked about the shape of the advent wreath being a circle and how this shows us that God's love never ends. The class eco councillors did a great job of speaking to their friends about looking after the planet and how they can be more eco friendly this Christmas. In English the children have been learning about what a traditional tale is. They looked at examples of some familiar ones. They picked out some features such as characters, settings and the language used. They noticed that many of them start with 'once upon a time'. The children have been learning about writing in different tenses, how we can tell if something has been written in the past tense or the present tense and what this means. The children retold the tale of Pattan's Pumpkin and have begun to write their own traditional tales. In Maths they have started to learn about 2D and 3D shapes. They started by matching up the shapes to the correct name. They are now talking about the properties of these shapes and using vocabulary such as 'vertices' when describing them.

Come, Lord Jesus,



Your people come to the end of this  
Advent Season with hope in our hearts.  
Throughout history, the Prophets have  
spoken your Word,  
And promised a Messiah, a Leader of your  
People.  
Open our ears to hear your living Word,  
Open our hearts to know the best ways to  
change  
and to make our lives today like the life of  
heaven.  
Give us the wisdom of those who have lived  
long lives.  
Teach us daily to accept the wisdom of  
those who teach us.  
May we be a sign in the world of your gift of  
hope.  
Come, Lord Jesus.  
Amen.





We have had a busy few weeks in **Willow Class**. We were invited to a Science afternoon at St Edwards, where we heard three lectures on the Science of Christmas. We particularly loved the physics experiment focusing on the speed of light and the biology lecture on digesting our Christmas dinner. During Advent, we have focused on serving our community. We have made leek and potato soup and mince pies for the homeless of Oxford along with



donating 10 care packs of essentials. We have enjoyed preparing for Christmas by making salt dough decorations and decorating our advent tree with prayers. In English we have been studying the William Shakespeare play, *The Tempest*.



We have enjoyed stepping into this magical world. In Maths we have continued to master the skill of Fractions. We can now confidentially multiply fractions by other whole number and by other fractions. It was a great honour to witness the Confirmation of 14 members of our class last Friday at the Oratory. Congratulations to you all.

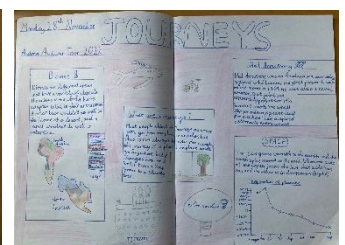
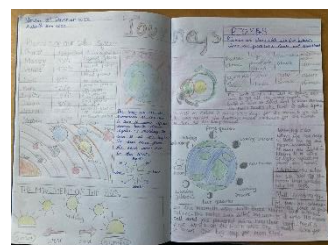
The past few weeks in **Tigger Class** we have been full of festive fun! The children have enjoyed learning about the story of Jesus's birth and performed a wonderful nativity, thank you to all the parents and family who organised costumes and came to watch. Tigger class have learnt so many new sounds that they are now able to write lots of words and they have enjoyed writing about Mary and Joseph travelling on a donkey to Bethlehem. We have discussed the meaning of advent and the children have thought about what they would like to pray for the world to have this Christmas, the children prayed that everyone was warm, had food and that all the children had toys to play with. This week our classroom has transformed into Santa's workshop and the children have enjoyed wrapping and weighing presents, they have written cards for each other and letters to Santa. We have also loved playing in our small world snowy train scene and making decorations to take home. In Maths we have been revising composition of number and subitising, the children have made great progress with this. Finally, in Music the children have loved singing Christmas songs and exploring tuned handbells and colour coded music to play along.



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**Bay Class** have shown great creativity and determination these last few weeks of term. In English, the pupils have enjoyed planning and writing short stories based on our class book 'Survivors'. In Maths, the class have been using a range of efficient methods to solve various division problems. The class really enjoyed carrying out an investigation on Friction in Science, testing different ground surfaces. In RE, we have been thinking about ways Christians prepare for the second coming of Jesus and how they should live out their lives today. The class have shown great love and generosity working together to make soup for the local food bank and giving food for our class food bank box. Over the last few weeks, we have been rehearsing our carol concert with Willow Class in preparation for the performance at the Oratory. The pupils are very proud of their knowledge book pages based on our topic Journeys.

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In **Fir Class**, as the Autumn term comes to a close, it is lovely to look back on how far the boys and girls have come. They have settled into year 1 and are showing greater independence, resilience and maturity in their approach to our learning activities and working together in the classroom. Over the past few weeks we have focussed on addition and subtraction, number stories and understanding the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes. We have written to Santa asking for gifts that would bring joy to others. We have created fantastic story boards detailing the story of Cinderella in preparation for our visit to the Pantomime performance. The children were completely captivated by the show, many having not been to a pantomime before. We all booed the baddies and cheered for Cinderella and sang as we waited for the show to start again after the interval. We have embraced the recent change in the weather as we have become budding meteorologists. We have created a weather station in our class. The children have used this to make their own weather reports, create predictions and monitor temperatures inside and outside of the class. The season of Advent has filled the class with joy as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord on Christmas Day. The children learned songs and lines and performed in our Angel Express performance with great enthusiasm. We have reflected on how we can prepare by helping others and taking a moment to appreciate how fortunate we are to have people who care for us. We are also showing our creativity by making some special gifts and Christmas keepsakes but I don't want to spoil the surprise. Mrs Black and I and all the teaching team in Fir Class would like to thank you for all your help this term and hope you and the children have a restful and peaceful break. They have worked very hard! We are all very proud of each and every child and look forward to welcoming them back for a new term and exciting new topics in 2023.



Christmas preparations are well underway in **Acorn Class**. We have been learning about Advent, its meaning and taking part in lighting our own class-made Advent wreath each week. After role-playing fire fighters, the children were making sure I was careful with the candles! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed preparing for the Nativity play 'Angel Express' and then getting to put on a double performance for family, friends and carers. It was a real treat to be part of it all and they all did an amazing job! Back in class we have opened up our own Christmas Post Office, writing letters to Father Christmas, learning what we need to do to make sure the letter arrives and then posting them off in our own post box! We have been sharing stories such as fairy tales, Cinderella, Christmas stories and the Jolly Postman to accompany our role play learning. The creative area has been busy as the children have been enjoying Christmas activities, making beautiful decorations, cards and much more. The frostier conditions outside have added to the childrens' excitement and offered a perfect opportunity for some ice investigation and snow writing! In Phonics, the children are really beginning to pick up on rhyming words in stories as well as making up their own! They also showed some fantastic listening in our game of guess the musical instrument by its sound, earning marbles in the jar which is very nearly full to bursting so we are looking forward to enjoying a Christmas party as a reward! In Maths we are continuing to deepen our knowledge of numbers from 1 to 5 before moving up to 10 in the new year. The children have been learning how to match numeral to quantity as well as consolidating the aspects of maths we have looked at this year so far. The children really have made such a lot of progress since they started and are excited to have some newer members joining Acorn class in January. Before then we wish you all a restful and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming you back in 2023!



**Ash Class** has been peeling away the layers of the Earth. They have been utilising some of their nursery-era skills. Their moulding skills have been impressive. Some of these models were great representations of Earth albeit not to scale. Our non-fiction explanatory text has been focussed on the formation of mountains. The Class have learnt that mountains are formed over millions of years. It is a slow process. It requires

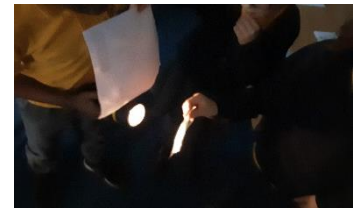
time. It is not as quick as commanding a bit of playdough with your hands. Ash Class had been eagerly awaiting their trip to the Oxfordshire Central Library. When they arrived, the library became new grounds for exploration. We received a warm welcome from the library staff. It was not only the staff but the robots that the Ash Class interacted with. After meeting the staff, they used their skills to locate books based on their classifications. We also gained a class library card to borrow books. We also made contributions to the community, they have



donated food to the local foodbank to support for the homeless. In addition to this, they also made soup. As Advent is a time for preparations, in RE, we have learnt about Isaiah prophesying the birth of Jesus. During this time of penance, we have been preparing for the arrival of the Messiah by praying and reflecting on what He brings us: joy, peace, hope and love.



**Oak Class** have finished our first unit on multiplication and division. We especially enjoyed the songs that went along with the 3, 4, and 8 times tables. This week we are writing the second half of our letters about deforestation in the Amazon. We have learned many features (including rhetorical questions) and are working hard to include them in our letter. Surely you want to read our letters? In RE, we have focused on Mary's experience of being told by the Angel Gabriel about becoming pregnant and telling Elizabeth the news. We have also looked at how Joseph responded to the angel and are using our persuasive skills from English to write what Gabriel might say to convince Joseph to stay with Mary. In the month of December, we have been learning about light in Science. Using the torches to test different materials for reflectiveness and measuring shadows has been a highlight.



## Diary Dates

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December** - 7pm Bay and Willow Carol Service at The Oratory

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** - Last day of Autumn Term - finish at 1pm

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** - INSET DAY - School closed to pupils

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January** - First day of Spring Term for pupils

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January** - Feast of The Epiphany - 10am Whole School Mass at The Oratory

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February** - HALF TERM

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March** - Last day of Spring Term - finish at 1pm



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