



## ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 12 MAY 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy couple of weeks at St Aloysius'. Year Six pupils have demonstrated maturity and a positive attitude this week while completing their SATs. We know that they have done their very best and we are so incredibly proud of them. I was also fortunate to visit Woodlands with Ash Class last week and they also demonstrated excellent resilience, independence and teamwork while caving, canoeing, orienteering and walking to the top of Hay Bluff.

As we are in the month of May, we especially remember Our Lady and there are some lovely prayer areas in classes with her displayed at the centre and we are looking forward to crowning the statue of Our Lady in Monday's assembly.

*Mrs Hannah Tebb, Headteacher*

O Mary,

You shine continuously on our journey  
as a sign of salvation and hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you,  
who, at the foot of the cross,  
were united with Jesus' suffering,  
and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people",  
you know our needs,  
and we know that you will provide,  
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,  
joy and celebration may return  
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father  
and to do what Jesus tells us.  
For he took upon himself our suffering,  
and burdened himself with our sorrows  
to bring us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the Resurrection.  
Amen.

### Classroom News



Last week, **Ash Class** showed strength and determination during their residential in Wales. We were fortunate to enjoy clear blue skies on most of the days. This meant we were spoilt by the glorious surroundings of the Black Mountains in the distance. During our residential, Ash Class discovered that rolling is the most efficient (and fun!) way to descend a hill. Over the course

of the week, many challenged themselves both physically and mentally. It was great to see so many working together as a team especially through the dark caves, climbing up to the zip-line and canoeing down the canal. All the Year 4's also took it in turns to be servers at mealtimes. This included laying the tables, serving meals and clearing the tables ready for the next day. Everyone succeeded in their serving duties. Ash Class also successfully made up their own beds and all bedrooms passed Mrs Tebb's room inspection. Some Year 4 pupils stayed at school last week and were lucky enough to be great additions to

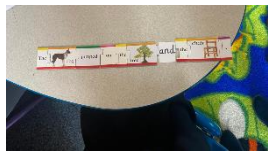


Bay Class. They started off the week consolidating on Maths and English and even joined in with the Year 5 spelling test later in the week. On Friday, they got stuck in with Coronation activities by making crowns and deciphering King Charles III codebreakers!

**Bay Class** have shown interest and enthusiasm towards our Topic on Climate Change this week, using facts from the sustainability event to understand ways to combat climate change. In Maths, we have been classifying and estimating angles and beginning to measure angles using a protractor. The class continue to enjoy our class book 'swimming against the storm'. In English, the pupils have written and published their own narrative based on an eco issue. In Science, we have been comparing the lifecycle of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. In RE, we have been exploring the Resurrection of Jesus and discussing a Christian's views on life after death. The pupils continue to enjoy swimming each week, showing good progress and enthusiasm. We have been singing and rehearsing in class ready for the Festival of Voices next month.



The **Fir Class** pirates have enjoyed sailing the seas, creating sea shanties and writing their own pirate stories. The children have worked together to create and perform their own songs to each other, their enthusiasm and "arrghh" skills are very impressive. In Maths we are



learning about multiplication, we are creating equal groups and sharing equally. When we sit on the carpet we now sit in rows and columns making us all look more mathematical! Our Mapping topic is helping us build a greater understanding of where we are, our planet, continent, country, county and city. We have enjoyed putting all that we have learned into our own song. Over the next four weeks we will explore the Oxford canal with three main questions: how does the canal help the city, how does the canal work and what does it provide a habitat for? We will go to Aristotle Park and explore the canal through Jericho. These sessions



will take place on a Friday afternoon so please ensure that your child has a waterproof jacket. Our PE sessions will now be held on a Thursday morning. Could you please ensure that your child has a PE kit with them on that day. The PE kit should be a house coloured t-shirt, shorts or jogging bottoms and shoes that they can run in. Hopefully shorts and t-shirts will be more appropriate in the sun rather than the raincoats we have had to wear over the past few weeks. Over the next few weeks we will be consolidating the children's phonetic skills, identifying sounds and blending them effectively. Please read with your child and encourage them to read new words on road signs, menus and anywhere else they may find them in the real world. Some of the sound games and activities that we do are shown in the photos below. We each have our own computer logins and we have loved playing some educational games on the computer. The website that we used is called Topmarks, a free educational website. We had the greatest fun playing spooky spellings and coconut counting.



This week has seen **Willow Class** show off all their hard work with their SATs papers. Their dedication and determination are inspirational, and I am very proud. We have enjoyed many post-SAT-paper treats we have enjoyed chocolate brownies, courtesy of Mrs Clarke, and brioche from Mrs Robinson. Looking ahead, Willow have already been practising their running skills by having a go at sprinting. Thank you for all the wishes and prayers for our class, we look forward to their results reflecting their hard work.



This week in **Tigger Class** we have been learning the story of 'The Frog Prince' as we have a very exciting tank full of tadpoles in our classroom! The children loved seeing the tadpoles change and learnt a new word - 'metamorphosis' - to describe this process. We have enjoyed reading books such as 'Teeny Weeny Tadpoles' and 'Two Frogs' as well as retelling the story of the Frog Prince in our busy books. We have combined learning about Princes and Princesses with discussing the recent coronation of the king, the children have been role playing royal tea parties and have decorated a castle with flag patterned paper chains. In Maths, we have been counting using rekenreks (similar to an abacus) the children have really enjoyed learning how to use a new resource and are practising their instant recognition of numbers under ten. Finally, last week we really enjoyed a visit from the fire engine and some firefighters from Rewley Road Fire Station, all of the children were allowed to have a go spraying the hose and sitting in the truck - see tapestry for some fantastic photos!



**Acorn Class** have gone mad for our latest topic, 'Minibeasts!' They have loved learning about all the different kinds of mini beasts and the differences and similarities between them. They have been choosing their favourites to explore in more depth and enjoying stories and songs to accompany this. The children have had opportunities for messy play with spaghetti worms, creativity with junk modelling, painting and play dough mini beast making and exploration with mini beast small world play. Some of the Acorns constructed their very own bug hotel from wooden blocks, showing their care and love for these little creatures. With Spring still very much in the air, we have been learning about the life cycle of a plant, a butterfly and also a frog, even enjoying our very own frogspawn play (jelly and orbeez!) We went to have a peek at the real tadpoles in Tiggers as well! In RE we learned the story of The Good Samaritan, a story with an important message that I was very pleased the children understood and we had a lovely class talk about the different ways in which, even as the smallest in the school, we can help each other and be kind. In Phonics, the older Acorns have been learning the sound 'c' for curly caterpillar to add to our sounds already learned and I am very impressed how many remember the actions we thought up to match them all! Group times have been focussed on rhythm and rhyme games. We have also been exploring mark making to different types of music and I was really pleased with how much they enjoyed this so we will definitely be doing more! Our focus in Maths has been simple repeating patterns (or more complicated if they fancied a challenge!) and we are also revisiting 2D shapes and seeing what new shapes we can make with them. Some children showed their innovative skills, making a beautiful angel using triangles for wings and a star for the head!

The last two weeks in **Oak Class** have been SO exciting! We had a virtual visit from Caroline Lawrence, the author of our class book. She taught us about the hero's journey and inspired us to write mystery stories. Our stories showcase our new skill of writing correctly punctuated direct speech. In RE, we have written the story of the Road to Emmaus from the perspective of a disciple and have just begun our next unit on Pentecost. This week saw us learning how to tell time to the minute as the beginning of our 3-week study of time. We have also been carefully watching our potato plants and saw that they have germinated over the bank holiday weekend. We dutifully water them each day and continue to look forward to their growth process! We kicked off our next History unit on Ancient Rome by learning about the origins of Rome, including some drama before we wrote about the story. Overall, we have had a stellar last two weeks!





The children in **Fig Class** have had a busy few weeks. In English they have focused on reading and answering questions about different texts. They used highlighters to help them find words in the texts which might be useful in helping them answer the questions. They discussed the different vocabulary in the texts and, as a class, we made a note of any words which were unfamiliar to them. The children then had the opportunity to go through their work with a partner and check their answers. This week they have continued with the class book 'Juniper Jupiter'. They have started to plan a narrative for their own superhero. In RE they have been learning about the Paschal Candle and the meaning of the symbols on it. They made their own Paschal Candles which they put in our prayer area. They learnt about the importance of water at Easter time and why water is blessed in church at Easter. In Maths they have been learning about measurement. They have used lots of equipment to understand how we measure length, volume and mass and have now moved on to learn about fractions. They discussed how they might recognise if something is equal or unequal and began to look at finding half and a quarter of numbers and shapes. Fig Class also learnt how to write one half as a fraction. In Topic they have been learning about Florence Nightingale. They talked about why she is a hero and what she has achieved. The children imagined they were Queen Victoria and wrote letters, awarding Florence Nightingale a nursing award for her help.

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## ATTENDANCE

The graph below has been circulated by Oxfordshire County Council with regards to the impact of children regularly arriving late to school. We know that Oxford traffic can be difficult and that journeys to school are impacted by roadworks. However, too many children are missing the start of the day on a regular basis. Children are required to arrive between 8.35am and 8.50am. During these 15 minutes, children complete retrieval and practice tasks to consolidate key knowledge and skills. If your child arrives at 8.55am every morning, they will be missing up to 1 hour and 40 minutes of consolidation of learning each week and it is disruptive to class learning.



## Diary Dates

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May** - Y4 & Y5 Opera Workshop

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May** - Whole School Mass at the Oratory - 10am

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May** - Y6 Good Shepherd Mass

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May** - Class photos

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May** - Acorn Class PTA Cake Sale - 3.15pm

**29<sup>th</sup> May - 2<sup>nd</sup> June** - HALF TERM

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June** - INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June** - Pupils return to school

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June** - Mass in school and procession - 2.15pm

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - Last day of Term - finish at 1pm

# PARKING REMINDER

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM STOPPING ON THE ZIG ZAG LINES OUTSIDE THE FRONT OF SCHOOL OR BLOCKING OUR NEIGHBOURS' DRIVEWAYS.

WE HAVE HAD COMPLAINTS FROM ST MARGARET'S ROAD RESIDENTS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WOODSTOCK ROAD - PLEASE BE COURTEOUS AND THINK OF OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

PLEASE ALSO DO NOT U-TURN IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL GATES, PLEASE FIND A SAFE LOCATION TO TURN AROUND.

OUR PUPILS' SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY.

# PLAYGROUND AFTER SCHOOL

AS THE WEATHER GETS WARMER AND THE EVENINGS LONGER, A GENTLE REMINDER THAT CHILDREN MUST NOT PLAY ON THE PLAY EQUIPMENT BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL. THIS IS BOTH ON THE BACK PLAYGROUND AND THE EARLY YEARS OUTDOOR AREA.

## MUD KITCHEN UTENSILS PLEASE!

If you have any old kitchen utensils e.g. spoons, ladles, whisks, garlic presses, sieves or mashers we would love them for our outdoor mud kitchen. We really appreciate your donations - they help the children learn so much!



*Tigger Class Staff*



Is your child in Year 5 and are you thinking about secondary schools?

Find out about free and subsidised places at St Edward's School at our

Open Evening on  
Tuesday 16th May (6-8pm)

To register and find out more visit the Fee Support page at [www.stedwardsoxford.org](http://www.stedwardsoxford.org)



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

An advertisement for Williams Hockey Coaching. The top part features a dark blue banner with the text "WILLIAMS HOCKEY COACHING" in small white letters, "MAY CAMP 2023 NOW OPEN!" in large white letters, and "WORK HARD. GET BETTER" in red letters below. Below the banner is a photograph of several young boys on a green artificial turf field, some holding hockey sticks. In the foreground, a boy in a white t-shirt and dark shorts is in a crouched position, ready to hit a puck. At the bottom of the advertisement, the text reads "May 31st - 1st June Oxford Hawks Hockey Club, OX2 8EQ" and "Aged 5-16. From Beginner to Performance". The Williams Hockey Coaching logo, consisting of the letters "WHC" in blue and red, is prominently displayed at the bottom.